

Merrymeeting News

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

SUMMER 2002

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

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

Education

Hands Around the Bay, Speaker Series, field trips.

Conservation & Stewardship

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

Membership Events

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

Research and Advocacy

Water quality, data collection, toxics, fisheries restoration.

2002 Steering Committee

Jenn Burns, Brunswick
Frank Burroughs, Bowdoinham
Dee and Clancy Cummins, Richmond
Andy Cutko, Bowdoinham
Steve Eagles, Dresden
Ed Friedman, Bowdoinham
DeWitt John, Brunswick
Kathleen McGee, Bowdoinham
Bill Milam, Woolwich
Steve Pelletier, Topsham
Steve Taylor, Bowdoinham

On-Line

<http://knox.link75.org/mmb/>
fomb@gwi.net

125 ACRES PROTECTED ALONG THE ABBAGADASSETT AND KENNEBEC RIVERS

At the north end of the Pork Point Road in Bowdoinham and including land on both sides of Route 24 is a special piece of land that will now be protected in perpetuity thanks to the owners - Jake and Paul Bishop, FOMB, and The Nature Conservancy, (TNC). We began a dialog with the Bishops last summer that culminated in the sale of the property this June. FOMB was again fortunate to work closely with the Maine Chapter of TNC, which purchased the property and will own it until it is transferred to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. As a target parcel within the recent Land for Maine's Future grant received for this area, the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition also supported the purchase.

This parcel contains an 18 acre field with a view along the Kennebec, then stretches back about 100 acres across Rt. 24 through old field partially replanted in white pine, and across the railroad tracks into older forest going down to the wetlands of the Abbagadasset. The Maxwell Cemetery sits just north along Rt. 24. The former Bishop Farm is contiguous to 340 protected acres to the south of Rt. 24 and about 25 acres to the north, making a total of 490 acres protected, a very significant piece of habitat.

Jake and Paul's father, Neil Bishop, bought the farm in 1932. The Bishops had dairy cows, vegetables, and hay, and their farm products were sold throughout the area. Wardens from Swan Island used to paddle over weekly for fresh milk. A moose nicknamed Jerry used to swim over from the island to feed in the riverside field until one day he was captured and sent off to New York's Bronx Zoo. That lower field was blackened with geese in the spring and fall and once a game warden estimated their number at 10,000.

In 1947 a chimney fire violently sent the farm into flames that could not be extinguished. Following the fire and the loss of their Bowdoinham farm, the family moved briefly to Casco and then resettled in Stockton.

Neil, a man ahead of his time, was a 4-term state senator (1940-1948). He also ran for Governor twice, Congress twice and U.S. Senate once. He was quick to point out that the then filthy Kennebec was, "too thin to walk on, to thick to drink". He also predicted many years ago that wars would be fought over water long before they were fought over oil. Well, he may have got the order of the problems reversed but he was certainly aware of and verbalized the very real water problem when few others probably did.

Ed Friedman.

Note: Bishop historical information from: THE HARD WAY by Jake Emery Bishop, 1998

MERRYMEETING BAY CURRICULUM

Over the past year, the FOMB Education Committee has been working on a Merrymeeting Bay curriculum for fourth grade students and teachers. This curriculum has lesson plans on a variety of topics that relate to the human and natural history of the Bay. After working through some or all of this curriculum we hope that area students will have a better understanding of the Bay in general, and will also be well prepared for our Bay Day field trips in the spring and fall.

We are now in the process of finishing revisions to a final copy of this curriculum. The curriculum binder will have ten units covering Merrymeeting Bay themes. The curriculum kit for each school will include the curriculum binder, additional resources for teachers, and materials needed for lesson plans (rock samples, maps of the Bay, etc.).

The units include the following topics: Merrymeeting Bay orientation and watersheds, animals and food webs, anadromous

fish, migrating birds, tides, plants, Native Americans, archaeology, geology, and history of the Bay.

When writing the curriculum we kept some basic objectives in mind. We wanted to teach students where the Bay is in relation to Maine and their town, what rivers feed into the Bay, what wildlife is in and around the Bay, and why the Bay is an important and unique habitat.

Each unit includes background information for teachers, objectives for students, materials needed, and a description of activities. For example, the anadromous fish unit teaches students what species of anadromous fish live in the Bay and its rivers and what obstacles anadromous fish face during migration. One activity in the fish unit is a game called "Hooks and Ladders" in which some students act out the migration hazards the Atlantic salmon face while other students act as the salmon trying to get through those hazards. For example, a few students act as natural predators like bigger fish or eagles, dams, and pollution. The salmon students have to keep from being tagged, hit by a dam

turbine (jump rope), being killed by pollution or killed by other hazards along their journey back to their spawning grounds. In the unit on animals of the Bay and food webs, students play a game creating a web of animals (what they eat and what eats them) using yarn and see how all the species are connected and depend on the health of the Bay and its rivers. In the history unit, students learn about historical uses of the Bay and compare them to current uses and protection of the Bay. In the Native American unit, students learn about how Native Americans respected and depended on the Bay and wildlife.

The Education Committee has distributed earlier versions of the curriculum for the last three Bay Days, each time with new activities. Our goal is to complete the curriculum binders and kits by the fall so each school will have the resource in time for our fall Bay Day, 2002.

Special thanks go to Deb Burk and Lauren Mofford for their help and support in creating the Merrymeeting Bay fourth grade curriculum.

Tracy Gregoire
Education Chair

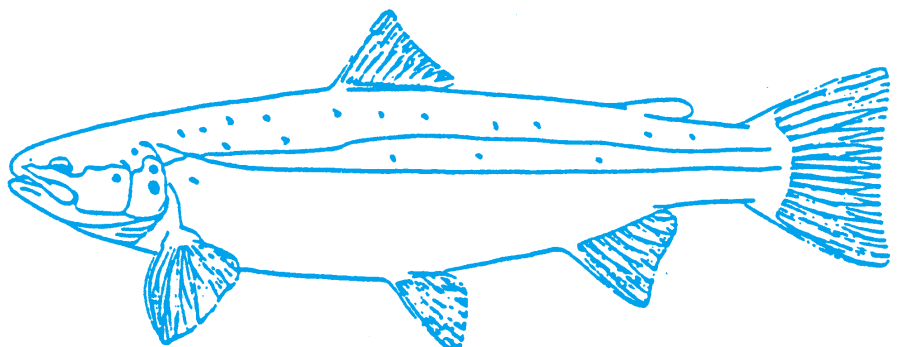
Summer 2002
Vol 12, No 3
June, 2002



Merrymeeting News

is the newsletter of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, P.O. Box 223, Richmond, Maine 04357, and is published seasonally.

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



Atlantic Salmon

CAGED MUSSEL STUDY - FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

The lab results of our mussel study have finally arrived. A full report of the project has been written by Applied Biomonitoring, and is available in PDF format on the [FOMB website](http://knox.link75.org/mmb/cybrary/kennebec2000finalreport.htm) (<http://knox.link75.org/mmb/cybrary/kennebec2000finalreport.htm>). As you may recall there were two components of the project, looking at dioxin/furan levels above and below the SAPPi pulp and paper mill in Somerset on the Kennebec River and using caged mussels to locate a probable PCB hotspot suspected to be in the Augusta area of the Kennebec. The three classes of organochlorines monitored contain some of the most toxic compounds known to man. Their effects range from endocrine system disruption to chloracne to cancer.

For the dioxin study caged mussels were deployed along with semi permeable membrane devices (SPMDs), also known as lipid bags or fat bags, about 11 miles below the mill outfall and about 13 miles above the outfall. These sites were already being used by the DEP in their existing fish monitoring program. The areas are separated from the mill impoundments by dams and so the DEP is assured that the fish they sample will not have been in the immediate area of the mill. The legislature has mandated an above/below test. If dioxin and furan levels in fish (or a surrogate) below the mill are the same as above the mill then we know the mill is not discharging dioxin or furan. Of course, if levels are higher below than above then obviously the mill is implicated. While these cage locations allow a direct comparison with fish they are clearly not the best locations to test the effectiveness of either mussels or SPMDs as monitoring tools since both of these could be placed much closer to the mill. Because fish move,

their sampling locations are limited by dam locations, a restriction that does not apply to in-situ monitors.

Despite their distance from the mill the caged mussels performed admirably. Survival rate of the mussels was 99.7%. The mussels detected a greater number (15) of dioxin types (called congeners) than SPMDs (12) or fish (5).

The percentage of mussel "hits" (38.08%) equal to or above the detection limit of testing methodologies surpassed both SPMDs (5.88%) and fish (19.41%). Neither mussels nor SPMDs showed significantly higher levels of dioxin/furans below the mill than above but this may just be a function of their extreme distances above and below and the subsequent dilution of what may be very low levels of discharge. Fish, on the other hand did show significant differences between above and below sites (though not on a per lipid {fat} basis which is where organochlorines concentrate) but these several year old fish move and are possibly accumulating from multiple sources; they *bioaccumulate* contaminants over time and they *biomagnify* (because they are eating smaller fish which in turn are eating smaller fish which eat invertebrates etc., etc. down to the particles onto which organochlorines initially adsorb) contaminants that increase in concentrations as they work their way up the food chain.

Our PCB cage deployments stretched from above Riggs Brook north of Augusta to the southern end of Swan Island. All cages showed PCB hits. Most showed levels in the 20-60 parts per billion (ppb) range. Two cages stood out, however. One, in midstream in South Augusta, showed a level of 188ppb. This cage was located just below an outfall pipe of the Augusta Sanitary District that has been there since the 1950s. We have spoken with the plant manager there who is very concerned and who seemed willing to work with FOMB and the DEP to investigate further.

The other hot cage (125ppb) was along the west shore in Farmingdale and upon investigation of the area via the "rails-to-trails" public access we discovered flagrant environmental violations at the former Williams (now Ferraiolo) gravel and asphalt plant. This plant has been operating at least since the 1940s and was found to have leaky oil pipes, oil in an overflow pond, a pump present to pump out said pond into a creek that ran down to the river, 3 phase motors lying around, new transformers (what happened to the old ones?) and a saturated area around a diesel pump. These two hot sites have PCB levels far above what is considered "safe" for fish consumption.

We notified the DEP and a "Notice of Violation" (NOV) has been issued, (how was this overlooked in years of DEP inspections?). PCB levels in the mussels may reflect historical dumping at this site, (or another). We recommend drilling on site to establish the extent of contamination. If not PCBs there is at least a waste oil problem and often the two go hand in hand as PCBs were typically used as oil additives for cooling applications (like transformers). The complete NOV as well as some site photos may be seen on our [web site](http://knox.link75.org/mmb/cybrary/ferraiolo.htm). (<http://knox.link75.org/mmb/cybrary/ferraiolo.htm>)

FOMB submitted a follow up dioxin above/below proposal to the DEP for a gradient type experiment that would place mussel cages and SPMDs within the mill impoundment from as close to the mill as possible stretching downstream in the discharge plume to the old deployment site. Our proposal was rejected out of hand by the DEP who stated in their [Dioxin Monitoring Report for 2000](http://knox.link75.org/mmb/cybrary/dep2000monitoringreport.htm) (<http://knox.link75.org/mmb/cybrary/dep2000monitoringreport.htm>) that caged mussels were unsuccessful and that fish and SPMDs showed the most promise for the above/below test. They made this statement with no scientific evidence to back it up, before our report was submitted, and in fact with the actual science suggesting quite the opposite conclusion. The DEP and the University of Maine in Orono have, over the last several years, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars developing the use of fish and SPMDs for this program. Regrettably, this appears to have influenced their objectivity.

While approximately 30 years old the use of fresh water mussels for biomonitoring has been very much refined. This has been the first time the technique was utilized in Maine and thanks are again due to those who made it possible, from the various state agencies to the many FOMB volunteers to Mike and Sandra Salazar of Applied Biomonitoring.

Ed Friedman

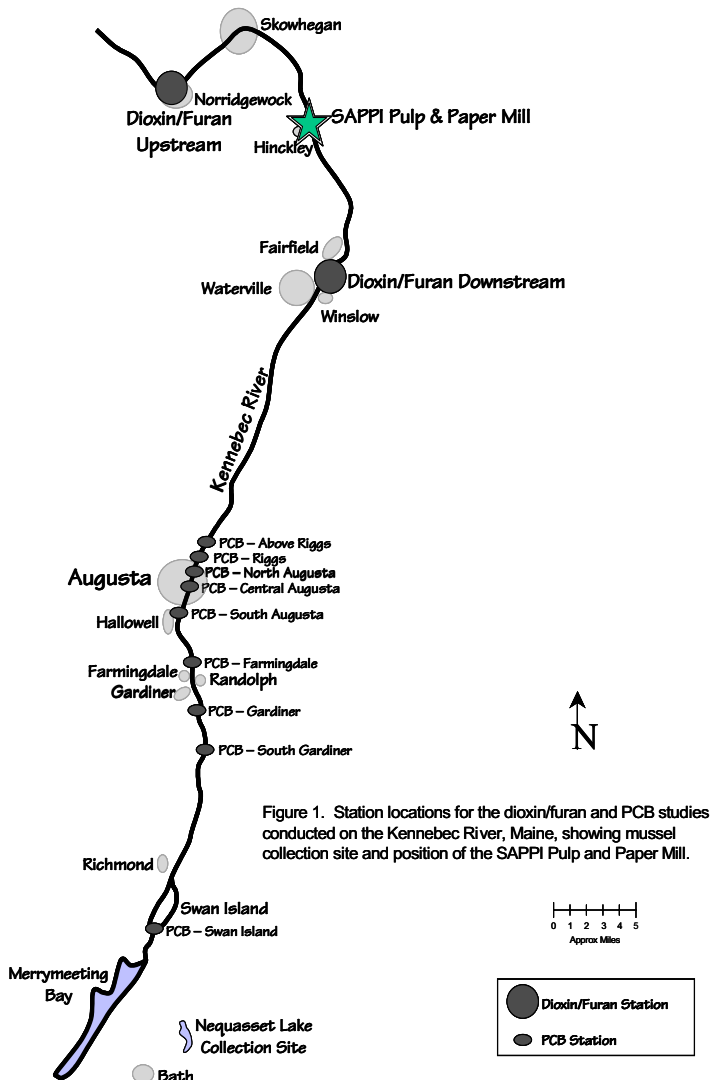


Figure 1. Station locations for the dioxin/furan and PCB studies conducted on the Kennebec River, Maine, showing mussel collection site and position of the SAPPi Pulp and Paper Mill.

TIDINGS

May's the month of undiminished returns, urgent emergers. Fly-by-night operators arrive in waves, in floods, streaming across our borders, unlicensed, not stopping for toll booths or tourist information. We awake every morning to the sight and sound of new strangers in our yards, our fields, our woodlots, along and in our rivers and up and down our coasts. You need to be everywhere at once if you are to document them, report them to the authorities.

Soon now white-throated sparrows will be singing their sweeet, sweeet mel-o-dee from the woods; their white crowned cousins already stand boldly and briefly forth upon our lawns, before heading further north. Song sparrows are everywhere, and there are also the chipping, the swamp, the field, and the savanna sparrows invading our hedgerows and infiltrating our puckerbrush. (The savanna sparrow, we are compelled to note, is a bird whose conjugal relations appear to be modeled on those of televised soap operas or the latter days of the Roman Empire. Moral persons should support the efforts of Attorney General Ashcroft to ban them from public buildings and de-list them from the Directory of Appropriate Birds.)

That's just the sparrows. There's the lovely, strangely shy Rose-breasted Grosbeak that appears exactly once at your feeder every May; there's the oriole, unseasonably splendid in his Halloween colors. He's like a pistol shot in a church against the oak and maple leaves that are just now unfurling their muted pastel colors, which are too subtle and short-lived to have a name, and deserve much attention. There's the hummingbird suddenly standing in midair, blocking your path with its fierce energy then—presto! —and it's gone, like somebody snapping their fingers in front of your face, letting you know that you, buckaroo, are too slow, too old, too stupid to be worth the time of day. It's May, pal, and life is not so much a bowl of cherries as it is a pan of popcorn. Back in April you thought that you could keep track of it: pop! and there were killdeers crying out; pop! pop! pop! and teal were back, a woodcock was calling on a rainy evening, a kestrel sat hunched on a telephone line as though he'd never left. You noted these things, pleased at your ability to keep track of them. Then it's May, the whole pan is popping and heaving, and you're like some poor demented file clerk standing out in the middle of a blizzard of confetti, trying to get all of it into the proper folder, tabulated, dated, organized for petessake.

Warblers? Oh lord. Forget about'em, as they lisp their wheezy little indistinguishable trills from their invisible perches. Forget about the yellow, the yellow throat, the yellow-rumped, the chestnut-sided, the bay-breasted, the blackpoll, the black-throated green, the black-throated blue, which lives and loves on Maine's own Spencer mountain. Just try to remember the black-and-white, which looks like a nuthatch serving time on the chain gang. Forget about the magnolia, the pine, the palm, the prairie, the parula; forget about the Nashville, which is not, despite what you might imagine, a subspecies of the Tennessee. Forget about the Cape May, the Connecticut, and

the Canada. Oh, it's important that you should see them, if possible every one of them, and more, every year. It proves that you have been and are living right. But you haven't been and aren't, because you are too damned busy, so it is best to forget about them. Just turn on the television and tune out May altogether, because it's manic out there, and the mania of May is contagious. I give you the current edition of the entire Boston Red Sox baseball team as an example of this delusional euphoria; I give you the same team in a couple of months as an example of what it leads to.

Meanwhile the grass needs mowing, because you haven't mowed it since yesterday.

You need to attend to the rivers. You need to get up to Damariscotta Mills, for the alewife run there. You need to see all those fish crowded together, like commuters on a subway at rush hour. You need to gaze into the astonished, uncomprehending eyes which they bring inland from the great nocturnal immensities of the North Atlantic, and to make note of the involuntary frenzy with which they cram themselves into a brook not much bigger than a ditch. It tumbles down a ledgy hill like an apprentice cataract, past the backyards of perfectly and pleasantly ordinary frame houses, through shaggy lawns and the perfumy blooming of lilacs. You want to get an idea what an alien invasion would look like, you just go there.

Creatures from another world, one our imagination can't touch. They have their own airforce—cormorants and ospreys and an eagle or two, and gulls everywhere. At the top of the brook, where it sluices through a narrow spillway, a corpulent black-backed gull stands. The fish hold in the last pool below the sluice, then leap up into it. A fish that could swim upstream against that force of water could swim upstream, from nozzle to hydrant, through a fire hose. It's absurd. They do it though—leap up into the sluice and hang there. You can actually hear a small rattling of fins and scales, and everything hangs in the balance and then they scoot through, and shoot out into the broad, clear, unbelievably serene waters of Damariscotta Lake. Sometimes the black-backed gull waddles over, dips down his head, and pulls out an alewife. He presumably likes doing it here, just when the fish is in the very moment of its impossible triumph. Lying quietly in shallow water beneath a willow, a few feet from where the alewives emerge into the lake, there is a large-mouth bass, of about five pounds. He too represents Cosmic Irony, and occasionally gulps down an alewife, without visible emotion of one sort or another.

Meanwhile, the grass is growing. The garden needs tilling. The storm windows need removing. The screens need installing. The cellar needs airing. The first of the summer visitors—I mean the bipedal sort that invite themselves without compunction, pay the tolls, pick up the tourist information, and require care and feeding—are arriving. So is a shipment of baby chicks, for whom a nursery must be improvised.

Up the Kennebec, in the long quick stretches between the dams, strange business is going on. In the silt of the bottom,



Ephemera Danica

things that look like mosquito larvae, only bigger, are twitching, stirring, beginning a process that seems to have been designed purely for its metaphoric applications. These are nymphs, about to become mayflies. They rejoice in such names as *Ephemerella subvaria*, *Ephemerella dorothea*, *Ephemerella gutulatta*. (*Ephemerella* sounds like a cousin of Cinderella, with whom the prince might have had a brief fling before settling down to eternal matrimonial felicity). The nymphs transform themselves from bugs that must live underwater or die into bugs that will drown if they fall into the water; from small, wriggling items, which look like something in a drop of pond water looked at through a microscope, into delicate, gauzy-winged insects that are in fact quite pretty, once you get past your aesthetic prejudices against insects in general. There are these and many other mayflies, and there are also more caddisflies than you can shake a stick at. Sometimes they seem to be blowing off the river in soft gales—little moth-like creatures that you might expect to find infesting your pantry.

The point is that trout and salmon (not to mention swallows, cedar waxwings, and bats) love these things, and if you are going to consider yourself a fisherman, you have got to be there at the moment the temperature of the water and the photoperiod and the alignment of the planets and the leading economic indicators are right, and the flies and the

fish emerge as though by spontaneous generation, and you are in the middle of it, with the flies that you tied for this very occasion last week, perhaps while you were mowing the lawn. It is a great thing. The rivers are also full of landlocked smelt at this season, and the trout feed on them with a recklessness and savagery that is remarkable, for just about exactly 45 minutes a year. You have to be there. And people—people!—for some reason believe that it is important to have commencement exercises and weddings and brunches and garden parties in May. Some even die then, or get drastically sick, or otherwise insist on your attention. You can't deny it, but first you have to mow the grass again, and also your hair, to make yourself presentable. You are also expected to go to work, to eat and to sleep. On top of that, what seems to me the most unkindest cut of all, expected to produce this essay for FOMB, here on a day when the whole world is vitreous green and life is erupting all over the place, and some kind of warbler—yellow? chestnut-sided?—is saying can't, can't, can't see mee in a tangle of lilacs outside this very window at this very moment.

Give me a break.

Franklin Burroughs

Tidings is a regular feature of Merrymeeting News

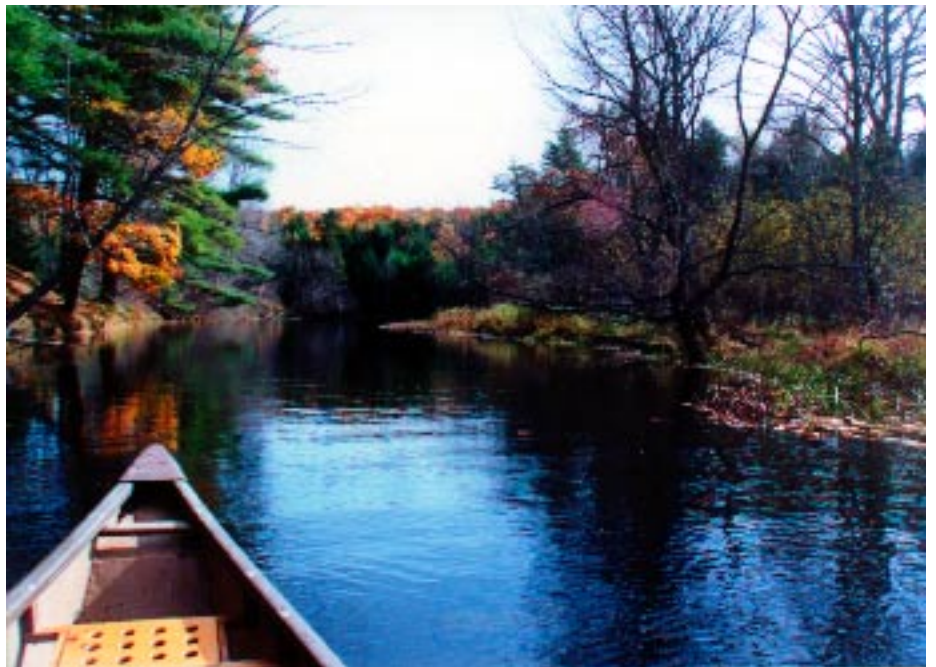
CATHANCE RIVER LAND PROTECTION

Just above head of tide on the Cathance River in Topsham is 34 acres of land with undisturbed shoreline, wooded ravines and old farm fields now growing into young forest.

Carla and John Rensenbrink have called this property home for several decades. They have paddled the Cathance and watched the determined progress of beavers, surprised great blue herons coming around the bend, and watched other animals come down to the river for a drink.

The Rensenbrinks have also seen the relentless march of “progress” in the Mid-coast area, in Topsham, and even just down the street. New subdivisions, the new Wall-mart and general congestion made them think about how they could help preserve some of the Topsham that they remember before the boom. The Rensenbrinks are very active in civic activities, Green Party politics, and general rabble rousing, but they also wanted to do something close to home, something for their home.

The Rensenbrinks approached Friends of Merrymeeting Bay about a conservation easement on their property. This easement boils down to a simple concept - the area has to remain as it is now, with no new lots. There are allowances for cutting of wood for personal use and the creation



*Just another day in paradise - an autumn paddle on the Cathance just above the falls.
photo by Warren Whitney*

of trails for non-motorized travel, but in general it will remain as it is, undisturbed, for generations to come. FOMB thanks the Rensenbrinks for their commitment to this property and for working with us to ensure its protection.

Warren Whitney

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

In 2002 FOMB begins its fourth season of water quality monitoring. Once a month, April through October, volunteers head out to assigned monitoring sites with a five gallon bucket and a test kit and collect information on water clarity, temperature, pH, salinity, and dissolved oxygen. These data combine to provide us with an overall depiction of the health of our waterways.

As my first official act as the program coordinator I would like to thank the individuals responsible for initiating this program. Theresa Torrent-Ellis approached Ed Friedman, our Chair, in 1999 with the proposal for a water quality monitoring program. Theresa then rounded up and trained ten volunteers that first season, of which I was one. At that time Theresa was working at home with two small children. All too soon, however, she was working for the State Planning Office part time, which soon became full time and then some. As last season wound to a close she realized she needed to hand over the coordinator's responsibilities to someone else. Thanks so much for thinking of me, Theresa! Theresa had the insight and ambition to organize a viable system of volunteer data collection and analysis. Without her efforts and perseverance we might not have this program. Theresa, with deepest gratitude, thank you.

The water quality monitoring program at FOMB is also deeply indebted to the Friends of Casco Bay (FOCB) and Peter Milholland for their enthusiasm and support when Theresa Torrent-Ellis first inquired how to begin a program. The model for the program as well as the training, manuals and sources for the test kits all came from FOCB. Peter took extra time to ensure procedures and protocols were understood, and we appreciate his efforts. Peter and FOCB continue to provide technical support, QA/QC sessions, and consultations. Thank you Peter and Friends of Casco Bay!

Which brings us to where we are today. Our monitors sample from above Skowhegan on the Kennebec, thanks to the involvement of our friends at Trout Unlimited, to the lower Androscoggin, up the smaller tributaries of Merrymeeting Bay, and down to a Woolwich site a few miles below the Chopps.

At this point in our program, the volunteer monitors what are really makes this happen, and I'd like to extend my thanks to: Steve Eagles, Richard Nickerson, Kathleen McGee, Ginny Conklin, Helen Watts, Phil Brzozowski, Clancy and Dee Cummins, Erin and Barbara O'Hare, Dave LaChapelle, Dave Hedrick, Ed Friedman, and Jim Thibodeau.

It is our hope to extend coverage up the Androscoggin to Lewiston/Auburn, but we need a few intrepid volunteers willing to take on these sites. More extensive data from the Androscoggin would provide us with a more detailed depiction of that river's influence on the Bay over a wide range of flow rates.

The training to become a water monitor is fairly straight forward, no science background is needed, and the training session itself takes about 2 hours (it is actually quite fun!). A training manual, test kit, and five-gallon bucket are all included. Anyone who might be interested is encouraged to call me, Bill Milam at 443-9738, or Warren Whitney at 666-3376. Each month the sampling and analysis can be accomplished in about an hour with a bit of practice.

Another developing area in our monitoring program involves collecting fecal coliform samples for the Department of Marine Resources (DMR).



Alchemy - testing for dissolved oxygen, an indicator of water quality.

These samples are analyzed at the DMR lab for fecal coliform bacteria and are used to assess shellfish bed closures. Fecal sampling also tells us how efficiently municipal wastewater treatment plants are functioning and may provide some input in the discussion of whether or not to chlorinate the discharge from these facilities. To be more fully informed DMR has asked us to provide them with samples through December, which we will do as long as we can access the riverbanks safely. As is ever the case we are looking for one or two samplers to collect from the Cathance in the Bowdoinham area as well as a few back-up people. Again, any interested parties should contact Whit or me.

The most exciting project in the current season is developing a document known in water monitoring circles as a Quality Assurance Project Plan, aka a QAPP. This minor tome is a requirement of the EPA to assure the accuracy and reliability of information collected by volunteers. In order for any data to have credibility when being used as testimony or for any environmental action it must be supported by a valid QAPP. This document provides in detail the methodology behind the analysis protocol as well as the means used to assure accuracy in the analysis procedures. It also supplies EPA with organizational ladders and descriptions and locations of sampling sites. All this in an easy to understand federal government format. Once again we are deeply indebted to FOCB for providing us with their QAPP to use as a template, without which Whit and I would still be scratching our heads.

I look forward to the challenges of the coming season and hope that my organizational skills will develop at a rate that will keep me ahead of the demands of the program as we continue to broaden our interests and influence in our watershed.

Bill Milam

Why it Matters

Our water quality monitoring efforts provide us with the scientific data to support our advocacy work for a cleaner Bay. Already the data have been useful in our attempts to upgrade the river classification in the tidal portion of the Kennebec from a "C" to a "B" and to influence the relicensing of the SAPPI pulp and paper mill in Somerset.

SAPPI's current permit [and the new draft permit] allows them to discharge up to **46.5 million gallons of treated wastewater per day!** While actual discharges are more like 26 million gallons a day neither SAAPI or the DEP seem inclined to want to see the renewed permit reflect actual conditions something FOMB, the Natural Resources Council of Maine [NRCM], and the Maine Toxics Action Coalition [MTAC] are fighting for.

Ed Friedman

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES RECOGNIZES WILD KENNEBEC SALMON!

In their initial report (based largely on genetics) on the wild salmon populations of Maine the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) would not recognize Kennebec salmon as wild and unique and, despite their own genetic evidence to the contrary, concluded that our salmon were aquaculture escapees or drifters from other rivers.

FOMB and Friends of the Kennebec Salmon (FKS) sent off comments on the initial report and members of the Council made a fact-finding mission to Maine where FOMB and FKS spoke to them and gave them more detailed information. Shortly thereafter we received word that the Council and Academy had reversed (corrected) themselves and were now giving our salmon the recognition they deserved. The Council pointed out that with dam removal the river presented an ideal situation where recolonization could be studied and they advised doing no stocking initially but let nature take its course.

The NRC/NAS reversal is important because recognition of a threatened/endangered species expanding into upstream habitat lends support to our efforts for cleaner water and river quality reclassification.

Ed Friedman

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY Steering Committee

- Jenn Burns, 6 Aspen Dr., Brunswick 04011..... 725-5319
- Frank Burroughs, 81 Wallentine Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 ... *Secretary* 666-5979
- Dee and Clancy Cummins, RR1 Box 112, Richmond 04357 737-4175
- Andy Cutko, 555 Browns Point Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 ... *Vice Chair* 666-3162
- Steve Eagles, 123 River Rd., Dresden 04342..... 737-8023
- Ed Friedman, 42 Stevens Rd., Bowdoinham 04008..... *Chair* 666-3372
- DeWitt John, 4 Oakland St., Brunswick 04011 729-5881
- Kathleen McGee, 32 Wildes Rd., Bowdoinham 04008 666-3598
- Bill Milam, 107 Brushwood Rd., Woolwich 04579 443-9738
- Steve Pelletier, RR1, 9 Jesse Rd., Topsham 04086..... 725-0083
- Steve Taylor, PO Box 231, Bowdoinham 04008..... *Treasurer* 666-8919

Conservation & Stewardship Coordinator:

Dan Stockford, 712 Carding Machine Rd., Bowdoinham 04008..... 737-2709

Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator:

Bill Milam, 107 Brushwood Rd., Woolwich 04579 443-9738

Executive Director:

Warren Whitney, 145 Pork Point Road, Bowdoinham 04008 666-3376

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

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS.

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

NAME _____

RR# OR STREET ADDRESS _____

TOWN / STATE/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

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

- Renewal Gift From:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 11TH EVENING PADDLE SERIES - LITTLE SWAN ISLAND CIRCUMNAVIGATION!

6:00 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner and your boat of choice as we start in Richmond, go around the north end of Swan Island, down around Little Swan Island and back. Call Whit at 666-3376 for more information. We'll leave promptly, and bring flashlights in case we're caught out late.

JULY 23RD EVENING PADDLE SERIES - CATHANCE RIVER FROM THE FALLS TO BOWDOINHAM.

Paddling with the tide, we'll float this short but beautiful section of the Cathance. If you're interested in doing more of the Cathance earlier on this day, contact Carla Rensenbrink at 725-6955. Our trip will meet another group at 6:00pm.

JULY 24TH ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER SOURCE TO THE SEA CANOE TREK.

Paddling through the Bay to North Bath. We begin at the Water Street Boat Ramp in Brunswick at 1:00 p.m., catch the tide all the way down to North Bath. We'll also stop for an informal talk at and about the Bay Bridge wetlands mitigation project. Call Whit at 666-3376 to sign up.

JULY 27TH CLEANUP.

Rain and very un-May-like temperatures forced the cancellation of our spring cleanup day. We're trying again in the summer. 9:00am. Call Whit at 666-3376 for the meeting place.

AUGUST 22ND EVENING PADDLE SERIES - FULL MOON FROLIC.

6:00 p.m. It's late summer, the days are getting shorter and you'd better get out for one last chance to walk the Sands, in the middle of the Bay, at low tide, under a full moon. Call Whit at 666-3376 for more information.



FRIENDS of
MERRYMEETING BAY

P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357

Return service requested

Bay Curriculum pg 2

Mussel Study pg 3

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