

Merrymeeting News

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

AUTUMN 1993

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

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay was formed in 1975 for people who care about the Bay's future. FOMB was revitalized in 1991 and re-incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. FOMB's interests are diverse: scientific, educational, literary and historical. FOMB is also a Land Trust that accepts donations of land and provides stewardship for conservation easements. FOMB depends upon on volunteers and an active membership.

FOMB COMMITTEES:

Water Quality

Ed Benedikt, Brunswick
Tom Cole, Bath

Wildlife & Fisheries

Marilyn Cole, Bath
Steve Pelletier, Richmond

Property Protection & Stewardship

Nancy Churchill, Dresden
Joe Trafton, Topsham

Membership, Fundraising & Endowment

Tad Hunter, Topsham
Bill Jewell, Woolwich

Special Events

Jean Parker, Woolwich

Newsletter & Publicity

Tim Nason, Dresden
Nancy Churchill, Dresden

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT? Very simply put, a conservation easement transfers a set of "conservation" rights from a property owner to another, usually a not-for-profit organization like Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. The recipient must then protect and preserve those "conservation" rights. An example might be a landowner who wants only one additional house built on his or her land in the future, thus protecting the natural resources and scenic value of the property. Unless the landowner formalizes this desire, the next owner or heir has the freedom to build and develop the land. A conservation easement allows the land owner to retain ownership of the property while transferring the right to build, thus ensuring that the natural resource and scenic value of the property will be preserved for the future.

Conservation easements are crafted to meet the need of individual land owners. As such, they are incredibly varied with each easement being as unique as the owner and land involved. For example, one question that frequently comes up is whether a conservation easement means the public must have access. Because a conservation easement is crafted to meet the needs of the land owner, the land owner is the one who decides whether or not public access is to be allowed and stipulates the conditions of access in the conservation easement.

The role of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is to assist land owners who are conservation minded in learning about what property protection strategies are available to them. While conservation easements are only one of many strategies, they are becoming more popular because they allow the owner and his or her heirs to continue to own and enjoy the property while protecting it for the future. In addition, there may be some income tax, inheritance tax and capital gains benefits, depending on the property and nature of the easement.

Anyone interested in learning more about property protection strategies may call Nancy Churchill (737-2005). We also have several brochures and a booklet available.

PRESERVING FAMILY LANDS

STEPHEN J. SMALL'S *Preserving Family Lands, Essential Tax Strategies for the Landowner (Revised 2nd Edition)*, is now available from FOMB. Please call Nancy Churchill for details, or write to FOMB at P.O. Box 233, Richmond, ME 04357. The book covers conservation easements, gifts of remainder interest, testamentary gifts, direct gifts to family members, cash sales, limited development, sources of help, estate tax tables and more.

Preserving Family Lands is also available for \$8.95, plus \$3.00 postage and handling from Preserving Family Lands, P.O. Box 2242, Boston, MA 02107. Make checks payable to Preserving Family Lands. (Massachusetts residents include 5% sales tax on the purchase price.)

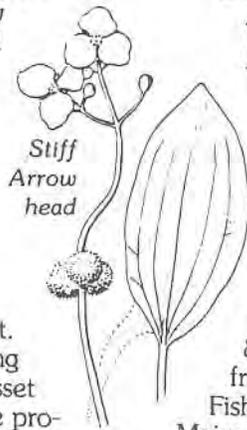
PROPERTY PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP

Nancy Churchill, Dresden

OVER THE PAST YEAR, we have focused our efforts on building awareness about the natural resource importance of the Eastern River. We continue to see a growing interest and support by local property owners. Our plans for the fall include conducting another seminar on various property protection strategies which can be used by landowners to preserve their land. Dresden land owners who were unable to attend the last meeting will be invited, although we encourage attendance by anyone with interest.

Other work involves working with owners on the Abagadasset River, a class "A" river whose protection is particularly important because it flows through a region under strong development pressure.

We continue to seek new members to this committee, particularly those who would like to work on stewardship. Stewardship means ensuring that a property continues to be used in the manner specified in the conservation easement. We currently are stewards for one property in Richmond. However, others will require both prepara-



tory work as well as annual review. Anyone interested in working on Property Protection or Stewardship should call Nancy Churchill (737-2005).

WETLANDS COALITION MAPPING NEAR COMPLETION

MAPPING OF Merrymeeting Bay and the Lower Kennebec estuary in order to help prioritize habitat protection efforts is near completion by the Gulf of Maine Coastal and Estuary Project.

The map is being developed by Stewart Fefer and Richard Smith of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with help from the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife as part of the

Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition. The entire effort is a part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). The Plan has provided the impetus for protection of wetland and adjacent upland habitats critical to North American waterfowl by establishing population goals for ducks, geese and swans, and designating priority habitat areas.

The map overlays several coverages, including: wetland habitat, colonial nesting waterbird sites, migratory paths for anadromous fish, habitat for bald eagles, concentrations of breeding bird species, concentrations of amphibian and reptile species, and protected properties (federal, state and municipally-owned conservation land, easements, natural heritage sites, and privately held nature preserves).

The work of identifying and mapping coverages has been completed. The current focus is to identify easements and shoreland zoning areas that are not yet shown.

A primary purpose of the map is to obtain grant monies through NAWMP for the purchase of easements or land in the areas of highest value. Priority would be given to lands that are adjacent to public and/or protected properties. The amount of money available would be equal to the value of properties that have recently been put under easement protection.

THE MAINE NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

THE MAINE Natural Areas Program was created this past summer by consolidating the Natural Heritage Program and the Critical Areas Program, which had been administered under different State offices.

The Natural Areas Program performs a wealth of services that continue a strong tradition of conservation by the State of Maine.

Services and programs include: documenting the location and status of rare features; administration of the official list of Endangered and Threatened Plants; registration of critical natural areas that are voluntarily protected by landowners; assistance with sound conservation and development planning; and a sophisticated data management system for Maine's natural areas. Citizen guidance and support is given through the Natural Areas Advisory Board and volunteer contributions of amateur and professional naturalists.

For information about the Register of Critical Natural Areas and other services, write to Maine Natural Areas Program, State House Station 130, Augusta, ME 04333, or call 624-6800.

RARE PLANTS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

Barbara Vickery, Richmond

A DISTINCT group of plants has evolved in the specialized environment of Merrymeeting Bay.

Benefitting from the shallow waters and the mixing and flushing action of river and tide, acres of mud flats are covered with wild rice and bulrushes. These plants and the cover and food they provide make the Bay very attractive to wildlife. There is also a less conspicuous, but noteworthy plant community in the Bay that contributes to its ecological importance.

The Bay is characterized by many conditions that are not found elsewhere in Maine. These include twice daily freshwater tidal inundation, high quantities of silt in the water, warmer temperatures than are found in the ocean or in upriver water, and varia-

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Merrymeeting News

is the newsletter of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, P.O. Box 233, Richmond, Maine 04357, published in the winter, spring, summer and autumn. *Merrymeeting News* is sent to all FOMB members (\$10 annually). For information call Tim Nason, Black Spruce Type/Graphics, Dresden (737-4282). FOMB welcomes donations to help pay for the cost of production and mailing.

tions in salinity from totally fresh at the upper shore line to quite brackish at the low tide line. In addition, the shores are subject to severe scouring by ice shifting up and down with the tides in winter.

In 1916, M.L. Fernald and Bayard Long, eminent botanists, visited the Bay and discovered on the tidal shores of the Cathance River in Bowdoinham a species never before seen or described, Long's Bittercress. A decade later Norman Fassett devoted much of his *Vegetation of the Estuaries of Northeastern North America* to Merrymeeting Bay and its tributaries.

The Bay's significance as a prime example of a diverse estuarine plant assemblage has not diminished over the years. Most of the great estuarine systems to the south have been so radically altered by development, dredging and pollution that the original plant communities scarcely persist. Merrymeeting Bay is now healthier than any of these. As a result, it still supports numerous populations of 12 species that are considered rare in Maine.

Fortunately, the wet and muddy habitat of these species is not highly susceptible to direct human contact. But, each individual species in this natural community is dependent on a precise combination of environmental conditions—water depth, temperature, mud or cobble substrate, salinity, shade, and the absence of competition from larger plants.

Changes in these conditions jeopardize the survival of particular populations. Long's Bittercress and the Cardinal Flower can grow only on shores shaded by overhanging trees. Sand and gravel washed from careless road repair can make the substrate uninhabitable for creeping plants like the white-flowered Mudwort. Bridge crossings of tributaries can obstruct water flows and make the local environment too salty for some species (Winnegance Creek supported many estuarine species before it was dammed by the Route 209 causeway).

Horned
Pondweed



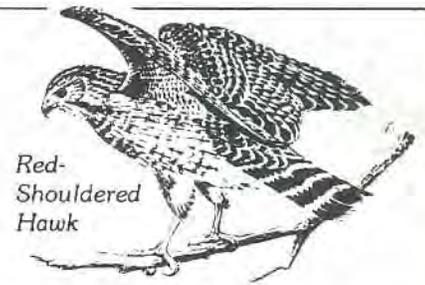
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

AS YOU CAN TELL from the contents of this newsletter, FOMB continues to expand and evolve. I've had the chance to reflect on some of the changes we've gone through this past year. It's been tremendously heartening to see how much has been accomplished in such a short time. Every committee has worked long and hard this year to focus its efforts and move FOMB forward.

Membership and Fund Raising have streamlined the membership and renewal process.

The content and quality of the newsletter have soared, providing us now with an extremely professional publication to communicate our work.

Wildlife and Fisheries has been doubly busy. On one front is the "Ring Around the Bay" which continues to gain participants as well as expand the number and types of sightings. On the other front is work being done to develop a natural resources



Red-
Shouldered
Hawk

inventory and strategy.

Property Protection is working with several local owners on conservation easements.

Water Quality has created a multi-phased plan to gather information, perform assessments and provide education.

And last, but certainly not least, Special Events has sponsored some wonderful events, the last being the exciting and enjoyable evening with Linwood Rideout.

I'd like, in this newsletter, to recognize the members of the Steering Committee and Subcommittees for their time, energy, dedication and devotion. With your support, they've made this a very successful year. Please join me in extending a special thanks to them all.

— Nancy Churchill, Dresden

Careful attention to siting of new structures on the shore, management of uplands adjacent to rare plant sites, and preservation of the water quality will be needed to conserve the outstanding natural diversity of Merrymeeting Bay's shores.

Rare plants of Merrymeeting Bay and the Lower Kennebec River are:

Stiff Arrowhead, *Sagittaria rigida* (endangered); Long's Bittercress, *Caradamine longii*, Parker's Pipewort, *Eriocaulon parkeri*, Estuary Beggar-ticks, *Bidens eatonii* and *Bidens hyperborea*, and *Lilaeopsis*, *Lilaeopsis chinensis* (all threatened); Horned Pondweed, *Zanichellia palustris*, and Pygmyweed, *Crassula aquatica* (special concern); Mudwort, *Limosella australis*, Spongy Arrowhead, *Sagittaria calycina*, Water Pim-

pernel, *Samolus valerandii*, and Estuary Monkey-flower (*Mimulus ringens* var. *colpophilus* (on watch list).

PLANT SURVEYS

GEORGIA HALL, a botanist from Georgetown, periodically surveys rare plants in the Merrymeeting Bay area under the auspices of the Maine Natural Areas Program and the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Ms. Hall, who has been doing this work since 1990, checks sites at Whiskeag Creek, West Branch Cove and Butler Head in Bath, Brox Brook and Back River Creek in Woolwich, Center Point, Abagadasset Point, and the head of tide area of the Cathance River in Bowdoinham, and Pleasant Point in Topsham.

ABOUT FOMB'S WATER QUALITY RESOURCE PROGRAM

IN OCTOBER, the FOMB Water Quality Committee finalized a four-part plan to publicize and evaluate existing research and focus public attention on water quality in the Bay area.

The first step will be to publish a bibliography of water quality and natural resource studies that focus on the Bay. This will be compiled and written by students at Bowdoin College's Environmental Studies Program, with help from committee chairman Ed Benedikt and Tom Benn of Whitefield.

Secondly, a biologist will be contracted by FOMB to enter raw data from existing water quality studies into a data base. This will compile all the existing data into one resource so comparisons and evaluations can be made. Currently, research is scattered throughout the files of many state and private research facilities. Gaining access to the data and determining its importance is very difficult. Once our biologist has entered the data and assessed what factors have been examined (and which ones have not), a layman's summary of the data will be published by FOMB. In addition,

Mummichog, a forage fish



"Scattered analysis of fish tissue in Maine lakes has revealed some high concentrations (of mercury) in fish tissue in certain lakes and species ... Over half of the samples of fish from Canada exceed the Canadian health standards of .5 mg/l and many of the samples from Maine lakes approached the U.S. health standard of 1.0 mg/l. *The U.S. standard was raised from .5 mg/l to 1.0 mg/l when concentrations of mercury in swordfish were found to exceed .5 mg/l. The process is known as economic adjustment of health standards.*" (Italics ours)

— DEP Link, 8/93

REDUCING EROSION & PHOSPHORUS RUN-OFF



PHOSPHORUS is a natural fertilizer that occurs in rocks and soils, phosphorus detergents, sewage leach fields and man-made fertilizers. When it enters a river, pond or other waterway, it promotes algal blooms. Algae grow quickly in the phosphorus-rich water, then die. As bacteria and fungi decompose the algae, oxygen in the water is used up, causing the water to turn green and murky. The water smells and tastes bad, and fish in the water die. If shoreline plants can intercept the phosphorus before it reaches the water, they will use it for their own growth and keep the water clear.

The best time to check for erosion is during a rain-storm. Look for ditches carrying dirt into the water, and for erosion in areas of exposed tree roots, gullies and worn paths.

To filter out phosphorus pollution: replace pine needles under trees or put down mulch or undergrowth that will absorb water; replace straight paths with ones that curve (this will re-direct water from the path into vegetation, where it will slow down and be absorbed); plant a vegetated buffer strip of trees, shrubs and ground cover (grass is not enough).

— Information from *Keep Out Phosphorus*, produced by the Gulf of Maine Aquarium and the Portland Water District with funding provided by the Casco Bay Estuary Project, and from *Erosion on Shorefront Property, Identifying the Causes of Chronic Erosion Problems (Fact Sheet #2)* available from the Maine DEP.

an assessment of the water quality in Merrymeeting Bay will be published, based on the research the biologist has examined. The assessment will be distributed to town officials, libraries, schools and interested members of the public.

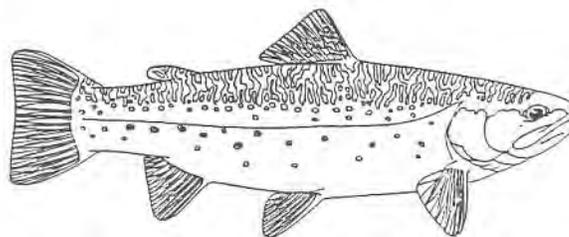
The third part of the Water Quality Resources Program is a conference to develop a high profile advisory group to help guide FOMB's research. The conference will focus public attention on the Bay's water quality, and establish FOMB as the logical clearinghouse for Bay research and related activities. Bowdoin College has expressed interest in hosting the conference.

The final part of the program is a

brief slide show and narrative about water quality as it pertains to the Bay, to be presented to schools, business groups and civic organizations. A guest speaker will be invited to address a specific aspect of water quality at each presentation. The main purpose is to explain what water quality really is, and to show the many ways it can be adversely affected.

FOMB has submitted a proposal to the Davis Conservation Foundation for the biologist, conference and slide show aspects of the program.

Those interested in knowing more about our Merrymeeting Bay Water Quality Resource Program should call Ed Benedikt (*see page 6*).



Brook Trout

Fish drawings by Peter Thompson, *Discover the Kennebec, the Fisheries Resources of the Kennebec River.*

NATURE TRAILS & WATER ROUTES

Robert P.T. Coffin Wildflower Reservation, Woolwich

The Coffin Reserve is one of several nature sanctuaries in the Merrymeeting Bay area. A walking trail winds through mixed second-growth woods to the Bay. A trail on the east side of Rte. 128 features different vegetation and ends at a beaver pond. Parking is available at the turn-off to Chop Point.

Kennebec River Trail

Intrepid kayaker Donald J. MacKenzie was commissioned by the Kennebec Valley Tourism Council to make the journey from Wood Pond in Jackman through Moosehead Lake and down the Kennebec to Popham and report his findings to the Council (December 17, 1992). MacKenzie's report is a thorough description of the route and contains recommendations for landings, shuttles, signage, campsites, maps and brochures. In case you are wondering, his comments about the Kennebec Gorge are as follows: "The gorge should be enjoyed by transit in a whitewater raft as it is hazardous for any but the experts. Arrangements can be made with a number of rafting companies for portages of canoes and gear while enjoying this exhilarating treat." (You might have read in *The Times Record* about MacKenzie's exploits this past summer — a 2,000 mile kayak trek from the English Channel to the Ukraine. MacKenzie is 66 years old.)

Androscoggin River Trail

Mapping a section of the Androscoggin River from Shelburne, New Hampshire, to Rumford, Maine, has been undertaken by Friends of the Androscoggin. Using Geological Survey topographic maps, the Androscoggin River Canoeing Map describes access points and includes some basic pointers on water safety. A short walking trail is also described. Publication was paid via advertisements from local businesses. Several of the river's islands, and at least one landing site, are owned by the Mahoosuc Land Trust. The landing site is leased to Friends of the Androscoggin. Membership in the Friends is \$5 annually. Contact Ken Bohr, Box 247, Bethel, Maine 04217.



Tri-Colored Heron, also known as Louisiana Heron, is a native of the South that has been seen in Maine recently.
Drawing by Taki Oshima

SIGHTINGS REPORT

Marilyn Cole, Bath

WE ARE HAPPY to welcome into the Sightings Project the following new members: Doris R. Souviney of Dresden, Inge Foster of Dresden, and Dolores Benn and Tom Benn of Whitefield. Thanks for joining our effort.

I am pleased to say that the Sightings Log Book has been very well received by the Bath School System. I will be giving my first Merrymeeting Bay slide presentation at the Fisher Mitchell School in Bath for grades one thru three. The children there are developing a program to install bat houses and wood duck boxes in the Butler Cove area of Merrymeeting Bay. The Jr. High School in Bath asked me to meet with their staff on October 18th and present the Sightings booklet to them at that time. I expect that more presentations will take place after I've met with the teachers to develop an informative presentation for this grade level.

I expect to learn more about the Butler Head/Butler Cove area of Bath. This is a marvelous 123-acre parcel of land, owned by the City of Bath, that is being considered for use as a nature/science center. Hopefully, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay will take an active part in the future of this property.

Sightings that have been observed are numerous and at times comical. Ed Benedikt called to say he had observed a Belted Kingfisher darting about the New Meadows Pond area. The Belted Kingfisher in the Butler Cove area of Merrymeeting Bay was still in evidence early in October, but with the cold weather upon us has headed for warmer climes.

We observed a mamma and young Pileated Woodpecker being harassed by what we believe was a Merlin or Pigeon Hawk. For forty-five minutes or more, the hawk chased the woodpeckers from one tree to another. The woodpeckers were truly non-plused by the hawk, but we are sad to say that later we saw only the adult woodpecker fly through. The baby Pileated had one of the best punk hairdos we'd seen on bird or teenager. We also had a tremendous laugh watching a Great Blue Heron try to swallow an eel. After many minutes of an in-again, out-again procedure he finally managed to get it down his gullet only to see his rump wiggle and swiggle with the eel inside him.

The ducks have been flocking around the bay trying to out-smart the hunters. There seem to be large flocks of mallards and I have observed several Buffleheads in the area also. The winter birds have arrived in force and the cold weather has caused them to empty the feeders on a rather quick schedule. It was noted that the cost of sunflower seed will be rather high this year because many of the crops were destroyed in the floods. If you have an Agway store near you, you may want to see if a truckload sale is currently going on.

INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER COLUMN: "MAINE NATURE"

FOMB MEMBERS who read the *Times Record* (Brunswick) always look forward to the "Maine Nature" column written by Christopher M. Packard. Full of insights and suggestions for successful bird watching, the column also sparks an interest in learning more about wildlife, our natural friends and neighbors. The column appears on Fridays in the Living and Leisure section.

FIELD TRIPS AT MERRYMEETING BAY

FIELD TRIPS at Merrymeeting Bay continue to be very popular.

Maine Audubon Society hosted a trip to Swan Island in June and then a Swan Island Family Overnight in August. In September, the group hosted a trip called Bald Eagles of Merrymeeting Bay. Cost for these range from \$20 to \$35. Contact Maine Audubon at P.O. Box 6009, Falmouth, ME 04105-6009 (781-2330).

A boat trip on Merrymeeting Bay to Swan Island was launched by Merrymeeting Audubon Society and Mid-Coast Audubon. More than 112 people called to register for the trip (the first 100 were taken). Larry Murphy in Waldoboro (832-7060) handled the bookings. On October 17, Merrymeeting Audubon hosted a canoe trip

on the Cathance River for fall foliage and bird watching. George Sergeant (442-8195) was the coordinator. Contact Merrymeeting Audubon for their schedule of meetings and events (P.O. Box 178, Wiscasset, ME 04578).

FOMB welcomes information about any and all Merrymeeting Bay field trips, and would be glad to co-sponsor or help publicize them.

ISLAND OPPORTUNITY BALKED BY EAGLES

Joe Trafton, Topsham

SOME PLANS seem destined to fail despite the best of intentions. The proposed renovation of the campsite on Freyes Island is a good example of this. Yet, where man has failed the eagles have succeeded!

An active bald eagle's nest was discovered less than 100 yards from the major campsite on the island. This was the area that Friends of Merrymeeting Bay had promised to clean up, upgrade, and act as stewards over. Public apathy and abuse had seriously degraded this site and the island's owner welcomed the support.

Consultation with the Maine Dept. of Fish and Wildlife led to the decision that a campsite in this location was not a good idea. Fledgling bald eagles may stay in the nest until August and nesting starts as early as March. In August, a clean-up was undertaken; four campfire spots were removed, an embankment that had been excavated was refilled, and campsites were raked and reseeded. Finally, a sign was posted high up on a mature pine to inform prospective campers to respect the area.

The nesting pair of bald eagles were successful in rearing a single fledgling, which took wing in mid-July.

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY

Please call the following steering committee members if you have a question about Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. All of our committees welcome your ideas, enthusiasm and assistance in developing programs. Don't be shy, call today — we are very friendly people!

PROPERTY PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP

Nancy Churchill, RR 1 Box 77, Dresden 04342	737-2005	Chair
Joe Trafton, Pleasant Point, Topsham 04086	729-1734	Vice Chair

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Ed Benedikt, 5559 Harding Rd. Ext., Brunswick 04011	442-0445
Tom Cole, 8 Eagle Pt. Rd., Bath 04530	443-9675
Tom Benn, PO Box 475, Whitefield 04579	443-8656

WILDLIFE/FISHERIES MONITORING & ISSUES

Sightings

Marilyn Cole, 8 Eagle Pt. Rd., Bath 04530

Natural Resources Inventory

Steve Pelletier, RR 1 Box 385, Richmond 04357 ...	737-8407	Treasurer
Don Gleason, RR 1 Box 12, Dresden 04342	737-2817	

MEMBERSHIP, FUND RAISING & ENDOWMENT

Tad Hunter, Foreside Rd., Topsham 04086	729-1544
Bill Jewell, RR 1 Box 475, Woolwich 04579	443-6520

NEWSLETTER & PUBLICITY

Tim Nason, 15 Alexander Rd., Dresden 04342	737-4282	Secretary
Nancy Churchill (above)	737-2005	

SPECIAL EVENTS

Jean Parker, Hockomock Is., Woolwich 04579	442-0982
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MEMBERSHIPS, RENEWALS & DONATIONS

THROUGH THE summer and autumn we have received a steady stream of new memberships, renewals and donations. Wonderfully enough, many members we had not heard from since 1991 have recently re-pledged their support for FOMB. Welcome back!

During September and October, new and renewing members donated \$265 above and beyond membership dues. Thank you, thank you, thank you ...

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY UPDATE

Tim Nason, Dresden

DURING THE MONTHS of June, July and August of 1993, I was paid by FOMB to work on activities that would start some projects, increase membership in FOMB, encourage membership involvement, and increase public awareness of Merrymeeting Bay.

My first task was to help Marilyn Cole organize the **Sightings** project. Jeannette Cakouros of Woolwich, a freelance publicist, participated in one of our meetings and was a great help

to us in deciding how to publicize the project. Feature articles about participants, monthly press releases and short radio announcements were suggested. Speaking to senior citizen groups and business organizations was suggested as well. On the record-keeping aspect of the project, Bob Haven of Data-Crafts, Inc. in Dresden volunteered to tally sightings into a computer program.

The idea of publishing an FOMB Sightings Log Book emerged at one of our meetings. The Log Book is a nicely illustrated booklet with spaces available to record sightings each month. Marilyn and I worked up a prototype by the end of June and displayed it at our booth at Bath Heritage Days.

Also for the booth, I produced an 11" x 17" map of Merrymeeting Bay that Marilyn had enlarged to 2' x 3' at Technical Business Services in Brunswick. We mounted the map on foamcore, and asked people to show where they lived by marking the spot with a push-pin.

For the Water Quality committee, I contacted state officials and others who are active in the field of water quality research. Out of that process has come a Water Quality Resource Program, developed by Ed Benedikt, Tulle Frazer and Tom Cole.

Steve Pelletier and I met during the

FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY MISSION STATEMENT & LONG TERM GOALS

The mission of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay shall be to act for the preservation, protection and improvement of the natural ecosystems of the Bay. The boundary for the Bay is defined as all fresh water tidal rivers above Thorne's Head.

Our Long Term Goals:

- Liaison with such agencies and organizations as federal, state, conservation groups, public and private organizations, towns and cities.
- Develop an effective and efficient administrative structure.
- Work for the continuing improvement of the water quality of the Bay.
- Land Use: Encourage municipalities, state and federal governments in the watershed area to adopt land use policies for the preservation, protection and improvement of its natural ecosystems and to work with private property owners for voluntary measures for the protection of the Bay.
- Wildlife & Fisheries: Improve the habitat for the fisheries and wildlife populations in and immediately adjacent to the Bay.
- Education: Encourage a broad-based education program.



American Crow

summer to discuss how the Wildlife and Fisheries Committee could implement its ambitious goal: a Comprehensive Merrymeeting Bay Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Program. A program outline and grant proposal are in the works. A

conference, slide presentation and a major proposal to the Pew Charitable Trust are being planned.

I collected maps of wetlands, studies on the Bay and its tributaries, reports about fisheries restoration, information about sources of grants, information

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

ANNUAL DUES \$10.00 (tax deductible).

Yes, I would like to join Friends of Merrymeeting Bay.

Renewal Gift Membership

I enclose \$ _____ to cover membership for _____ year(s).

In addition, I enclose \$ _____ as a tax-deductible donation.

NAME _____

RR#/STREET ADDRESS _____

TOWN / STATE / ZIP _____

PHONE _____

SEASONAL ADDRESS _____

I would like to participate in the **Sightings** project.

I would like:

- Information on Conservation Easements
- Information about Merrymeeting Bay
- Other _____

I want to serve on the following committee:

- Water Quality
- Wildlife & Fisheries
- Sightings
- Property Protection & Stewardship
- Membership & Fundraising
- Newsletter & Publicity
- Special Events
- Other

about trails, water routes and boat landings, etc. Anyone interested in these materials should contact me. I can also direct you to the appropriate resource for more information.

Working with Bill Jewell, Tad Hunter and Joan Lipfert of the Membership Committee, we came up with a new system for processing memberships. Each new and renewing member is sent a postcard of acknowledgement. Committee chairmen are given the names and addresses of those members interested in specific program areas.

If anyone has any questions about these efforts, please write or call.

WONDERFUL BOOK: THE AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES OF MAINE

THIS 188-PAGE soft-cover book is a gold mine of information about snakes, turtles, salamanders, frogs and toads. To obtain a copy, send \$9.95 (made out to Endangered and Nongame

Wildlife Fund) to Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, State House Station #41, Augusta, Maine 04333, or check your local library.

IF&W also publishes an excellent quarterly magazine, *Maine Fish and Wildlife*. Cost is \$14 per year. Call 1-800-288-8387. Many articles feature endangered species, threatened habitats and non-game species.

EASTERN RIVER CHAPTER OF FOMB

EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY to form an Eastern River chapter of FOMB. The chapter would focus educational and conservation efforts in Dresden, Pittston, Whitefield and Alna. Interests include monitoring the river for change, protecting its natural resources, encouraging low-impact recreational use, and communicating wildlife sightings to FOMB. The Dresden Conservation Commission is leading this effort. Please call Tim Nason for more information (737-4282).

WISCASSET MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANT

BACK IN JUNE, FOMB received a grant of \$500 from Ms. Lippert's 7th grade class at Wiscasset Middle School. FOMB has since used part of the money for small grants toward two construction projects on Swan Island undertaken by area youngsters.

AN EVENING WITH LINWOOD RIDEOUT

Members of FOMB were warmly appreciative of Linwood Rideout's presentation about Merrymeeting Bay on the night of September 8. Mr. Rideout has been a registered Maine Guide for 35 years and is a life-long resident of Bowdoinham. His talk touched on many topics, including the plants that grow in the Bay and historical subjects, all documented by his collection of plant samples, historical literature and family photos. The talk was at Bridge Academy in Dresden.



**FRIENDS of
MERRYMEETING BAY**
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