



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

2013 – 2014 Speaker Series Bios

OCTOBER 9: Josh del Sol -Take Back Your Power: ME Film Premiere

Join Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) on Wednesday, October 9 at 7pm for the 1st presentation of their 17th annual Winter Speaker Series. This program features the Maine premiere of the newly released thought-provoking film on smart meters, *'Take back Your Power'* directed and produced by filmmaker Josh del Sol. Run time is 1:47. <http://www.takebackyourpower.net/> It is brought to you in cooperation with the Maine Coalition to Stop Smart Meters, www.mainecoalitiontostopsmartmeters.org

Around the world quietly using billions in taxpayer funds, corporate utilities and governments are racing to replace electricity, gas and water meters with new-generation surveillance-capable 'smart' meters. But at what cost to human rights, finances, security and health? With compelling insight from insiders, government representatives, whistle-blowers, lawyers, doctors and environmentalists, *Take Back Your Power* investigates claimed benefits and emerging risks of this ubiquitous 'smart' grid program affecting all of us in Maine.

Transparency advocate Josh del Sol takes us on a journey of revelation and discovery while asking:

- Are 'smart' grid technologies effective, safe and eco-friendly?
- Or are corporations violating foundational rights and privacy - without providing benefit - in the name of 'green'?
- What truly sustainable solutions are now unfolding that can meet the great challenges faced by our civilization?

What he uncovered will surprise, unsettle and inspire you.

After two years of interviews and post-production, *'Take Back Your Power'* is a documentary film that both deeply shocks and inspires audiences. The issues uncovered here are of critical importance, directly affecting our lives, wallets, privacy, health, security and even basic rights to life. An array of experts raise credible questions about a widespread risk to public health quite possibly intentionally covered up by utility and telecommunication companies. The accelerated unveiling of truth is activating people everywhere, who are increasingly asking questions such as "What's truly going on here?" and "What can we do?" In making this film, del Sol and his partners found first-hand this is a *uniting* issue, where people from all walks of life agree something dangerous happening. In this film, it's exposed for the first time.

Josh del Sol is the Director and Producer of *Take Back Your Power*, his first feature film. Born and raised near Vancouver BC, Josh is passionate about the growing movement of social awakening. He has a vision for a more equitable and transparent social structure, with foundational values which honor the sanctity of life and human rights. Josh finds inspiration in those of courage who speak truth to power, from a place of non-violence and vision, laying the foundation for necessary solutions.

The FOMB Winter Speaker Series takes place monthly from October-May on the second Wednesday. The series, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay with support and valuable door prizes from Patagonia Outlet in Freeport. The next FOMB presentation of this season on November 13th at the Bridge Academy in Dresden is entitled *Col. John Allen, Revolutionary War Hero* and features historian Chris Groden.

To receive more information on FOMB's programs call Dup Crosson, Coordinator/Organizer, Chair, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, at 666-1118 or fomb@comcast.net. Full speaker schedule and speaker biographies are available on the web at www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org.



"A so-called 'smart grid' that is as vulnerable as what we've got is not smart at all. It's a really, really stupid grid."

- Fmr CIA Director James Woolsey, in *'Take Back Your Power'*

NOVEMBER 13: Chris Groden- Col. John Allan: 1746-1805, Maine's Unsung War Hero

Christopher Groden has a background in theater, as well as a lifelong interest in history, and particularly in the culture and history of Native American Indians and their influence on Euro-America. He came to Maine eight years ago to research the story of Colonel John Allan and his work with the Wabanaki and settlers of eastern Maine during the Revolutionary War. He currently resides in Belfast, Maine.

John Allan, an expatriate of Nova Scotia, was appointed as a member of his personal staff by General George Washington with commissions as a Colonel in the Continental Army, Commander of the Machias, Maine Militia and first Superintendent of Indian Affairs in our history. His exploits during the Revolutionary War were crucial to Maine and to the success of the Revolution itself. The exciting story that was his life has gone largely untold and the very few historians who have penned it agree that he never received the recognition that he deserved. His legacy belongs to all Americans and all who seek liberty, justice and understanding have a hero in Colonel John Allan.

DECEMBER 11: Michael Kolster and Matthew Klinge -A River: Lost and Found

A River Lost & Found: The Androscoggin in Time & Place

Previously labeled as one of nation's most polluted rivers, the Androscoggin River has slowly, if incompletely, recovered over time. Yet the river that allegedly inspired the 1972 Clean Water Act remains veiled in stereotype and ignored by the thousands who live along it.

[A River Lost and Found](#) explores the hidden past and neglected present of this important New England waterway. Our collaborative project combines photography, oral history, archival research, and non-fiction writing. Here we present a selection of our still-unfolding work. Together we ask how an injured river might reveal an ethic of place that embraces the complexities of human and natural history together. Our answers may suggest how we can embrace places that are neither pristine nor completely despoiled—the very places so many of us call home.

About our Collaboration

Like many collaborations, ours began with conversations over food and drink about shared interests: fishing, beer, the outdoors, and the importance of place in our lives. It soon evolved into something much more complicated and meaningful.

Independent of one another, we have long explored the connections between place and time in our respective artwork and scholarship. For Mike, his interests as a photographer have taken him across the continent. In the "[Changing Places](#)" project, he has visited three exceptional American cities—Las Vegas, San Francisco, and New Orleans—over the past seven-plus years. All three cities are built on unstable ground, threatened by earthquakes or hurricanes or drought. And each of them has a unique subculture, nurtured in response to each city's volatile location. Likewise, in his first book, Matt explored [the environmental history of Seattle](#), another iconic American city. In his research and writing, he discovered how the century-long interplay between environmental change and social inequality yields new ways to reconsider the interdependence between nature and culture in that most unnatural of places: the city. What unites our divergent work is our shared interest in seeing nature in unexpected places and unexpected ways.

Our project is also an attempt to make sense of our backyard geography. Like so many Americans, we are not from where we live now. Mike spent his formative years in upstate New York before moving to western Massachusetts, Rio de Janeiro, New Haven, and San Francisco before coming to Maine. A native Utahan, Matt had lived in Berkeley, Oakland, and Seattle prior to Brunswick. In the Maine idiom, both of us are "from away," yet both of us are raising families here. Maine is our home. And in our minds, there is no better way to become native to this place than exploring our nearby river, the Androscoggin.

Through our shared and solo journeys on the Androscoggin, we are learning much about Maine, this river, and how collaborations can yield new ways of seeing the world around us. The opportunity to break out of our typical professional channels—to record oral histories together, make and present multimedia presentations combining images and audio, try our hand at creative writing, to learn new photographic techniques—is a rare gift. The chance to share our discoveries, professional and personal, with diverse audiences across Maine only makes the work that much more rewarding.

Ultimately, we hope that our collaboration, like all partnerships, yields something larger than our own ambitions and efforts. We believe that our project might provide a refreshing, even iconoclastic take on the stale debates over environmental protection and economic progress that afflict Maine and our entire nation. Take the timing of our [Bowdoin College Museum of Art exhibition in the summer of 2012](#), which coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Authored by U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie, a Rumford native, the Act was supposedly inspired by Muskie's own local river: the Androscoggin. Yet four decades after this landmark legislation, while [dams are coming down on the Penobscot](#) and the stretches of the York might become [an official Wild and Scenic River](#), the Androscoggin remains overlooked and largely unloved. Perhaps in its neglect, however, the Androscoggin might suggest a more complex, humble, and perhaps more sustainable way to consider a new ethic of place suitable for a world facing enormous environmental and social changes.

Our project is an expedition to rediscover the great nearby. To paraphrase the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Heraclitus, we never step into the same Androscoggin twice. The same is true of any waterway, any landscape. No matter where you live, there is a river or brook near your home, neglected and ignored, or perhaps another waterway long ago, churning your childhood memories. We all have a backyard river and the Androscoggin is now ours.

We invite you to join us on the journey.



Michael Kolster, a [2013 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow](#), teaches at Bowdoin College and lives in Maine with his wife, Christy Shake, and son, Calvin. He is currently producing ambrotypes for a project comparing Maine's Androscoggin River with other American post-industrial rivers. When not able to shoot outdoors, he works in the studio on a series of still lifes of everyday objects with the wet plate process.

Since July, 2012, he has mounted solo exhibitions at [Schroeder Romero & Shredder Gallery](#) in New York City; the [Bowdoin College Museum of Art](#) in Maine; [Page Bond Gallery](#) in Richmond, VA; 621 Gallery in Tallahassee, FL; the College of Southern Maryland; [SRO Gallery](#) at Texas Tech in Lubbock; and [Space Gallery](#) in Portland, Maine. [Loupe, the Journal of the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University](#) and [Memorious](#) published portfolios of his river photographs this year.

An earlier project similarly concerned with land use policy and its implications, entitled Changing Places, depicted changes in Las Vegas, San Francisco and New Orleans over a 10-year time span. In 2009 a 23-image portfolio from Changing Places was acquired for the permanent collection of the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography in Rochester, NY. Work from the same series was featured in Consilience - The Journal of Sustainability, published through Columbia University.

For over ten years Michael has maintained a website, The Daily Post, to which he posts a photograph each day (<http://DailyPost.bowdoin.edu>).

He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and has lived in Rochester, New York; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Boston, Massachusetts; and San Francisco, California. He holds a BA in American Studies from Williams College, an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, and a certificate from the full-time Documentary Photography program at the International Center of Photography in New York City.



Matthew Klinge, a fourth-generation Westerner, was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. A historian of the United States, his research and teaching focus on the North American West, environmental history, urban history, social and cultural history, and the history of science, technology, and medicine. He has received fellowships and awards for his work from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, National Endowment for the Humanities, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, Organization of American Historians, American Society for Environmental History, Urban History Association, and Western History Association. He also held a national fellowship in 2002-04 from the Environmental Leadership Program, a nationwide organization training emerging leaders from wide-ranging social and professional backgrounds to promote greater diversity in the environmental movement, and later served on the ELP board of directors. In 2006 he received the Sydney B. Karofsky Prize for Junior Faculty, the only award for teaching at Bowdoin College.

JANUARY 8: Bruce Bourque -The Swordfish Hunters

Bruce Bourque has been the Chief Archaeologist and Curator of Ethnography at the Maine State Museum since 1972. He is the Director of the Fox Islands Archaeological Project, which is focused on the reconstruction of prehistoric cultural and environmental history of the Penobscot Bay region. Since 1971, the project has completed a comprehensive survey of over 200 prehistoric archaeological sites on and around these islands. Since 1975, he has served as the Director of the Merrymeeting Bay Archaeological Project, which engages Bates College students with the rich resources of the region and focuses on the impact upon prehistoric human populations of sea level rise in this complex estuarine system. <http://vimeo.com/70149661>

FEBRUARY 12: Pete Didisheim -Mining in Maine: Open for Business?



Pete has been the Senior Director of Advocacy at the Natural Resources Council of Maine since 1996. He holds a B.A. from Williams College in biology and environmental studies and a master's in public administration from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government. Among numerous governmental positions, Pete has been chief of staff for U.S. Congressman George Brown, Jr. (D-CA), special assistant to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary, and executive director of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. Pete has worked for other nonprofits and serves on the board of the Maine League of Conservation Voters. He lives in Brunswick with his wife and two children. http://www.nrcm.org/issue_mining.asp#indepth

MARCH 12: Bob Klotz, Tar Sands Oil: Alberta to Androscoggin

Bob Klotz is a South Portland resident who has worked in healthcare for almost 40 years. Bob is a physician assistant, currently employed in addiction medicine, who also has experience as a health educator and a provider of complementary wellness services. Since 2012, Bob has worked to develop 350 Maine – a grassroots movement dedicated to solving the planetary climate crisis. <http://www.350maine.org/>

APRIL 9: Hope Douglas -Wind Over Wings: Raptor Rehab

Hope Douglas earned a Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University majoring in counseling and education. She was Executive Director of Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT for ten years. She is board certified as a hypnotherapist and a forensic hypnotist. While visiting a teacher in Florida, Hope founded NEST, a nonprofit organization called the National Eagle Sanctuary Trust to protect Bald Eagle nests in the state.

Upon returning to Connecticut she founded Wind Over Wings in her parents' garage. Hope was President of the Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association and was Vice President of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council as well as its Executive Director. She taught wildlife conservation internationally including India and Peru. She has illustrated 14 books on wildlife and on physical disabilities. Hope received the J. Edgar Hoover Award for excellence in teaching and is featured in Who's Who in the World. <http://www.windoverwings.org/>

Hope was recently interviewed by 207! Click [here](#) to see the video.

MAY 14: Kevin Doran and Jack Witham- Forestry in Maine: State and Local Perspectives

Kevin Doran has been a Natural Science Educator with the Maine Forest Service and Department of Conservation since 1999. Earning his B.S. in Resource Management from SUNY, he has since worked for the education wings of University of New Hampshire and Maine Audobon, as well as running his own forestry consulting firm in the 1990s. His expertise in forestry research was honored by the State of Maine in 1998 when he given an Outstanding Forester Award. After completing his M.S in Adult Education at USM, Kevin went on to earn his Ed.D at Nova Southeastern University and has been an adjunct professor at USM since 2006. He was given an Honorary State FFA Degree Award in 2011 for his tireless work towards education practices. <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/forestry/index.html>

Jack Witham has been the on-site Associate Scientist for the Holt Research Forest in Arrowsic, Maine since its inception in 1983. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Management (University of Maine 1976) and a M.S. in Public Policy (University of Southern Maine 1996). At the forest he is involved in research, outreach, stewardship, and supervision; application of research results to regional forestry issues is one of his principal interests. His previous research examined the impacts of pesticide spraying and lake acidification on forest birds and ducks.

In 1989, Jack helped found the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust (LKRLT). He is president of LKRLT, which to date has protected more than 1,200 acres of tidal marshes and uplands. In 2000, Jack won the 19th annual Professional Employee Achievement Award, sponsored by the Professional Employees Advisory Council at the University of Maine.

http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/newtown_square/publications/technical_reports/pdfs/2005/325papers/witham325-2.pdf