

Town of Bowdoin, Maine • www.bowdoinme.com

Bowdoin Town Office
23 Cornish Drive, Bowdoin 04287 • (207) 353-6949

Bowdoin Select Board
 Marc Bernier 353-9121
 Michelle Keleher 666-8396
 Deborah Marquis 415-2819
 E-mail: bowdoinme@comcast.net

Town of Bowdoin Selectmen meet every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. Town of Bowdoin's Planning Board meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted on the town's webpage or twitter account (townofbowdoinme).

Town Clerk
Melanie Page 353-6949/353-2446
 Tues. & Thurs. 6:30-8:30 p.m. & Sat. 8-10 a.m.
 E-mail: townclerkbowdoinme@comcast.net

Assessor's Office 353-6949
 Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 E-mail: assessor@bowdoinme.com

Codes Enforcement & Plumbing Inspector Monday 5-7 p.m.
 E-mail: bowdoinceo@yahoo.com

Bowdoin Recreation Department
 Justin Keleher 666-8396

Recycling Center Hours
 Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Sat. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fire & Rescue (emergency) 911
 non emergency: 353-8508

Fire Chief - Tom Garrepy 666-8195
 Cell: 319-8822. E-mail: teakg@aol.com
 10 Cornish Drive, Bowdoin

Law Enforcement (emergency)
 Sagadahoc County Sheriff 911

Road Commissioner 666-3807
 Wendall Card, Jr.

Animal Control 353-2500
 Jeff Cooper

Tax Collector/Treasurer - George Bernier 353-6949
 E-mail: TaxCollectorBowdoin@comcast.net
 Mon. 12:30-2 p.m.; First and Last Tuesday of Month 7:30-8:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 7:30-8:30 p.m.

General Assistance Administrator - Clyde Cavender
 Mon., Wed. & Fri. 9 a.m. - Noon.
 E-mail: GA@bowdoinme.com

Recreation
 Justin Keleher, Director; Phil Kinney, Basketball Director; Karen Mayo, Softball Director

Bowdoin Central School (K-5)
 1460 Main Street 666-5779

Mt. Ararat Middle School (6-8)
 66 Republic Ave., Topsham 729-2950

Mt. Ararat High School (9-12)
 73 Eagles Way, Topsham 729-2951

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay Hosts Bay Day



ArtVan Director Jamie Silvestri leads a session on environmental art. [Greg Emerson Photo]



Chop Point - Could there be a better spot to learn? [Ed Friedman Photo]

WOOLWICH, ME - Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) hosted their annual Spring Bay Day under picture perfect skies at Chop Point School in Woolwich on Tuesday, May 16. Here at this dynamic site where nearly 40% of Maine's waters leaves Merrymeeting Bay via the Kennebec River, FOMB organizes a spring day of hands-on environmental education workshops for fourth grade students from around the Bay. "Kids have literally lost touch with their environment" said FOMB Chairman, Ed Friedman. "And they can't very well care for something they can't feel. Our job is to get students actively engaged in this world class resource, getting them muddy, wet and having fun while they learn."

180 students from Pittston, Woolwich, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Williams Cone and Chop Point schools participated in workshops ranging from beach seining and archaeology to anadromous fish printing and native American dwellings. It takes about 50 FOMB volunteers; guides and chaperones, to make this event a reality. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay engages in research, advocacy, education and land conservation and organizes a similar event in the fall taking place in Bowdoinham. Community members interested in volunteering to assist in these events can contact Kathleen McGee at 207-666-3598.



Students model Merrymeeting Bay at the junction of 6 rivers. [Ed Friedman Photo]



Jay Robbins helps students dig up the past. [Greg Emerson Photo]



Nate Gray and students wonder what will the beach seine yield? [Ed Friedman Photo]

Jeff "Gunner" Valkier First Legacy Life Member at VFW Post 2197



TOPSHAM, ME - VFW Member Jeff "Gunner" Valkier recently made the commitment of becoming a "Legacy Life Member." In doing this, he created an endowment that provides an annual payment to the National VFW, The Department of Maine, and to Post 2197 forever. There are three levels of participation, gold, silver and bronze. Jeff entered at the gold level which provides an \$18 annual payment to each of the three VFW organizations listed above. The Post membership is respectful and appreciative of Jeff's support of the VFW at all levels. *Jeff is pictured above with VFW District Seven Commander Al Sionni (right) and Post 2197 Commander Roger Stevens (left) with the recognition awards for becoming the Post's first "Legacy Life Member."*

South Africa, Land of Contrasts

by John VerPlanck & Jennifer Laskey VerPlanck

Of the fifty countries on the African continent, eight produce wine. South Africa, a country roughly twice the size of Texas, is by far their most successful wine area and is the 7th largest producer in the world. It contains more than 290 conservation parks, 8 World Heritage sites and 7 distinct biomes.

The roots of the South African wine industry date back to 1659, when Jan van Riebeeck, the founder of Cape Town, produced the first wine recorded in the country. At one time, Constantia, a sweet Muscat-based wine was both the preferred, and most expensive in Europe, a favorite of Frederick the Great and Napoleon. Later, apartheid boycotts, government interference, and the establishment of a huge and dominant wine grower's cooperative (KWV) resulted in mostly lackluster, uninspired wines and little exports. Winemakers openly smuggled vines into their vineyards, (called wine farms in South Africa) to bypass the restrictions.

Until quite recently, the region's principal grape was the very popular Chenin Blanc, locally known as Steen, with half the harvest dedicated to the production of brandy and spirits. Chenin Blanc wine is still very popular, but as the market has changed and the stranglehold of the co-op was relaxed, the world has begun to value and invest in South Africa's red just as much as their white wines.

The wine regions of South Africa are defined under the "Wine of Origin" act of 1973. All South African wines listed as "Wine of Origin" must be composed entirely of grapes from its region. With a Mediterranean climate that is marked by intense sunlight and dry heat, many South African vineyards rely on irrigation as essential to viticulture. The region has endured 2 years of drought and destructive wildfires, but they are still producing good quality wine, just less of it.

The heart of the South African wine industry and the nearest to Cape Town is Stellenbosch, a pretty, university town in a region internationally known for its powerful yet graceful red wines, mostly Cabernet Sauvignon-based, but also a good producer of Pinotage, the country's signature wine, a genetic blend of Hermitage, (Cinsault), and Pinot Noir. All "Cape Blends" are required to include Pinotage (30-70 percent).

To the northeast of Stellenbosch is Paarl, a source of dessert wines, particularly Sherry-style, solera wines. Paarl's south latitude is almost the same as the north latitude of Spain's Sherry region.

Between Stellenbosch and Paarl is the small region of Franschhoek, Dutch for "French Corner", another area known for excellent wines, mostly Bordeaux-style blends of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. But elegant whites, especially Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc also turn heads. Many of the oldest families there are descended from French Huguenots, seeking a new start after fleeing religious persecution in the 17th century. The French influence in winemaking is still apparent.

To the northeast is Robertson, quite hot and dry, but its proximity to the Breede River and its alluvial soil makes it an ideal source of sumptuous whites, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer and Sauvignon Blanc and magnificent Syrah.

South African wines are superb with barbequed foods. "Braai" is Afrikaans for barbeque and is a national pastime. They actually have a holiday, Braai Day, which celebrates their diverse cultural heritage with feasts of wood-fired grilled food, wine and beer, kind of like our Independence Day!

The Black Sheep Wine and Beer Shop www.blacksheepwine.com
 105 Mountain Road, Harpswell 04079 • 207-725-9284 Store Hours: Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 E-mail: blacksheepme@comcast.net

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