



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 3

www.bowdoinham.com

May-June 2017

SPRING SPOTLIGHT

Swan Island and Friends

By George Oliver

What is Swan Island? It's a 4-mile-long island in the Kennebec River directly across from the boat landing in the heart of the Town of Richmond, less than 10 miles from the village of Bowdoinham. The island is owned by the state as a wildlife management area and is open from May to October. It can be accessed by private boat or public ferry. There are bikes, boats, camping, hiking, tours, and various scheduled activities throughout the season. It's a little gem in the area, and it's too bad that Bowdoinhamers don't take more advantage of it.

The Friends of Swan Island (FOSI) was formed in the 1990s as a response to the possibility of Maine shuttering Swan Island under a state budget crunch. When that threat sputtered out, FOSI stayed around to head off future potential problems, and incorporated in 2002.

When Jay Robbins met with a number of concerned groups and town leaders back in 2011 to try to save Friends of Swan Island, which was fading due to the fading health of its leader, he was probably not thinking of leading it himself. He was already involved with a number of other historic groups, and he was hoping just to be of help in keeping FOSI afloat.

Now Jay Robbins is the head, although the truth is that the organization is so small, he's less a manager-president than its main volunteer. He admits that with more volunteers, it could go in more directions. Still, the organization's presence has been very important for the recent history of Swan Island.

One of the outcomes of the 2011 meeting was a building assessment for the island, which became its future guide. With the guide in hand, FOSI

could help Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), which runs the island, with a management issue that it had not dealt with as much in the last decade or two: to care for the buildings that were still left after the state bought the island in the 1940s, and to make sure that care was up to Federal standards now that Swan Island was on the National List of Historic Places. (Since 1988 Swan Island became the Steve Powell Wildlife Management Area.) Robbins adds "we also do some work in providing historical information and education on the island as needed, but we clearly are there to assist Inland Fish and Wildlife and not the other way."

IF&W is technically a wildlife agency, not an architectural preservation one, and FOSI was able to get private grant money for that purpose, monies which the state would not be able to get otherwise. The biggest grant so far has been from the Davis Family Foundation in Yarmouth (especially the Davis Conservation Foundation), whose patriarch was the CEO of Shaw's supermarket. There were also some funds from the Merrymeeting Bay Trust for signage. In the last five years, FOSI has been able to raise \$100K in grant money for saving buildings. All of this fund raising has to be coordinated with John Pratte, the

IF&W biologist who oversees the island. Fortunately, Pratte lives locally, so the relationship has been an easy one.

The sweeping history of the four-mile-long and 3/4-mile wide, fingerling-shaped island is one of rising and falling populations and loyalties, and sometimes neglect.

Swan Island's Native American history goes back at least 9000 years, when its upper eastern shore, along Little Swan Island, was the natural head of tide of the Kennebec River. Its Abenaki name was "Swango"—"Island of Eagles." For millennia, natives fished its teeming natural dam, building a stone fort for its Abenaki-Kennebec chief on the little island. The state recently bought the land immediately across on the Dresden side; Robbins says that parcel may turn out to be "the most important prehistoric site in the whole of the Northeast."

The island's modern history dates from the early 1700s. As whites populated the river's shores, the natives were forced to retreat, not always quietly. In 1847, the island's residents seceded from Dresden to form the town of Perkins, but it faded in the early 20th century as a viable town. The properties were finally purchased (sometimes without the owners' desire) by the IF&W in the 1940s.

Continued on page 2.

INSIDE

Swan Island & Friends	1-2	CEO Corner	6	Clothes Closet	8
Farmers' Market	3	Town Clerk's Corner	7	Food Pantry News	9
The Farm Stand	3	Comprehensive Planning Committee	7	Library News	9
What is EAP & EAL	3	Citizen of the Year	7	Committee on Aging News	10
Historical Society News	4	Annual Rummage Sale	7	BCDI News	11
Cruise Ins are Back	4	Theatre Production	8	Town Tax Club	11
News from Arts Center	5	Cemetery Committee	8	Community Calendar	12
Summer Concert Series	5				

Swan Island

Continued from page 1.

Interestingly, although Richmond was once part of the town of Bowdoinham, Swan Island never was.

At its height, the island town of Perkins consisted of perhaps 100 people and 25 buildings, including 15 families. Currently there are only 5 residential structures and a few outbuildings left. A couple are being used for IF&W's needs: to house staff and for education. Thanks to FOSI, the Tubbs-Reed house at the head of the island was the first opened to the public as a historic property. Unfortunately, another house had to be demolished for safety 2 years ago.

Robbins laments that Swan Island is only visited by 2000–3000 visitors a year, which is way under-utilized. It can certainly handle twice that many, which IF&W would like to see; in contrast, IF&W's Wildlife Center in Gray gets over 30,000 visitors. One problem in the past was that the old ferry could only handle perhaps 15 people at a time, and it wasn't friendly to seniors or the handicapped; worse, it required getting off right across from the Richmond landing and riding a truck to the campground/education center. A new ferry was bought 2 years ago, which is easy to get in and out of, can handle up to 55 people, and can go around the island directly to the campground/center. (Call ahead to reserve a space.)

To prove this point, Robbins notes that last year he had a meeting there and "we had one [person] on a walker, one on crutches, and one with an arm in a sling

and we had no trouble. That was encouraging."

He admits, however, that FOSI could do more outreach to neighboring towns and more promotion of the pleasures of Swan Island. And there are many pleasures. A day trip is inexpensive (at \$8), and self-guided tours include wildlife and historic information, or you can arrange tours with the summer staff. Visitors have access to bikes (or you can bring your own), and L.L.Bean and Cabela's have provided canoes and kayaks for rent. Overnight tent camping is also an adventure in the log-built, three-sided lean-tos. Note: it's the only Wildlife Management Area in the state that allows camping. There are also a number of short and long hiking trails, where you can see some of the oldest oaks in the area as well as abundant wildlife.

John Pratte has organized more events to make the island more welcoming and more well known. They have a field day where there are outdoor skills taught, like archery and fishing, to get kids out there. Robbins leads two tours a year for Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, one on the island and one around the island. And last year for the first time they held a 5K race along its length.

Robbins's interest in Swan Island came ultimately out of his educational background. He graduated in 1973 from Bowdoin as their first environmental studies graduate. When Robbins moved to Richmond a year later, he became good friends with the then town historian Polly Roberts. "I got involved in local history, and at the same time involved with doing...what I call place-based history. I've

been a student of the history of the Tidewater Kennebec." He just stepped down from the board of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society after 22 years. He's a former president and former Executive Director of the Lincoln County Historical Association. He's no stranger to Bowdoinham, either. Jay led an archeological and historical tour of Bowdoinham's cemeteries last August, as part of Merrymeeting Art Center's year-long "Hallowed Ground, Forgotten Voices" program.

He's also a hard working FOSI volunteer. He and his colleague Terry Parker from Richmond have spent hundreds of hours researching the history of the island, including tax records and deeds from the founding of the island to the present. He says of all his activities and work, "I have history in my blood."

Robbins sums up his passion for Swan Island this way: "Swan Island is a beautiful place. To me it has a real sense of place about it. The centuries of Native American energy, I think, is something you feel when you're out on the island. I mean you can just tell it's been an important place throughout its history."

For more information about Swan Island check the website <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/education/swanisland/index.htm>.

For more information about FOSI or to volunteer your help, you can contact Jay Robbins at:

John A. Robbins, Jr.
Robbins Historical Research, Inc.
160 Pleasant St., P. O. Box 9
Richmond, ME 04357
207.737.2239
RobbinsHistorical@gmail.com

COLONIAL HARDWOODS

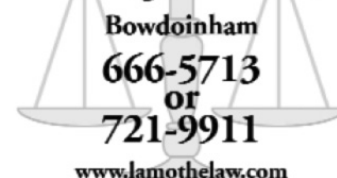
PATRICK MCDONOUGH
WOOD FLOORING CONTRACTOR

666-3069 OFFICE
831-5718 CELL

EXPERT INSTALLATIONS, SANDING, FINISHING
AND CUSTOM WORK

HEADQUARTERED IN BOWDOINHAM OVER 20 YEARS

LAW OFFICES OF ARTHUR J. LAMOTHE



www.lamothe.com

Farmers' Market

By David Asmussen

The farmers' market season is upon us! The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market is happy to announce opening day on Saturday, June 10th. We'll be at the Maily Waterfront Park every Saturday 8:30-12:30 until the fall. It's a great excuse to enjoy Saturday mornings in the park with your neighbors.

While Bowdoinham has only a summer market, our farmers are using the excellent soil in town to deliver luscious produce year round. You can bring home the seasonal specialties and support your

farming neighbor in many local markets, CSAs and a huge number of restaurants and natural food stores. Take a look at the menu and chances are you'll see a Bowdoinham farm. Supporting the markets that offer local food keeps dollars in the area where they bounce around to other local businesses. Whichever market you go to:

- Come early for the best selection.
- No cash? No problem. While cash is fee free, many vendors have mobile credit card readers and want to make it easy for you to take home their delicious wares.
- Talk to the vendors. What is that vegetable? How do I use that cut of meat?

Will that bread go well with my atomic chili? Vendors really get to know their product as they raise them for months before market. Take 10 seconds to ask about that oddball. Tell us how you prepared the meal at home, and we'll share it with others looking for ideas.

- And of course, bring a big sturdy bag to bring home your bounty.

We know it's not always easy to get to the market, but with the long warm days there are more opportunities than ever, and we're sure you'll find the effort deliciously rewarding.

For more information, visit us on Facebook at Bowdoinham Farmers' Market.

The Farm Stand

Harvest Tide Organics' Farm Stand at 218 Main Street in Bowdoinham will open for the summer on Tuesday, June 6th. The farm stand features produce grown organically in Bowdoinham on Merrymeeting Bay. The stand will be stocked with fresh vegetables daily. This year, we will be expanding our cooler space and our vegetable offerings. There will be lots of what's fresh and in season in Bowdoinham: greens, carrots, beets, strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, squash, sweet corn from our favorite neighbor Fairwinds, and lots more.

The stand is 100% self-serve and honor system and accepts cash or check as forms of payment. We will be expanding the hours and days we are open from last year and will be open 7 days a week from dawn until dusk.

The farmstand was launched in 2014 as just a cart and only open a few hours each day. In just two years, we have expanded to a full-size self-serve farm stand that is open all day every day. The stand is owned and operated by Bethany and Eric of Harvest Tide Organics on Pork Point, with the help and support of Brian Smith.

Thank you to all Bowdoinham for your support so far – we hope to see you this summer!

What is EAP & EAL?

By Margot Frost

After 50 years of experience and a lifetime spent with horses in many disciplines. After spending the last two years in training, I have become certified as an equine specialist under the EAGALA model – “the leading international nonprofit association of professionals incorporating horses to address mental health and personal development needs” (see www.eagala.org for more information). I am currently working on my advanced certification to bring this experiential therapy to Bowdoinham and surrounding communities.

Why horses? Horses are very much like humans in that they are social animals, with defined rolls within their herds and prefer to be around their peers. They have distinct personalities, attitudes and moods and at times are stubborn and defiant, but they also like to have fun. Hence, an approach that seems to work with one horse will not necessarily work with another and this variability provides vast opportunities for metaphorical learning. Horses are prey animals, which make them extremely sensitive and aware to non-verbal communication. The horses' responses give the clients and the treatment team information; information that brings awareness of current patterns and motivates change to new ones.

EAP is about the relationship between the horses and the clients not the relationship between the facilitators and the clients. The facilitators are there to provide the opportunities and bring consciousness to the lessons being learned. The fundamental belief of the EAGALA model is that the clients have their own answers, we allow them to tell their own stories.

I have spent the last year working alongside April Cloutier LCSW and sole owner and proprietor of Painted Horses LLC. Painted Horses has been in operation for 13 years providing services to a wide range of clients. April has been a pioneer as well, and was the first in the state of Maine to use the EAP model.

I am now joining forces with Sally Hildreth, another EAGALA certified equine specialist and owner of Eagle Hill Farm in Bowdoinham where we will soon be offering EAP/EAL services. The work will include corporate and sports-oriented team building as well as other mental health services including work with first responders and veterans. As the network coordinator for the state of Maine, one of my goals is to connect and educate people in this powerful model of helping people through the use of horses. For more information on programs, trainings and demonstrations, please visit (www.eaglehillfarmme.com) or call Margot Frost at 978-337-8080 or Sally Hildreth at 207-671-5456.

Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

HELP! We have quite a bit on Bowdoinham farms, but can always use more. Help us memorialize your family's farm, your farm, or the once-upon-a-time farm where you now live. Please help us capture this information before it is lost!

We will begin setting up the Meeting House for our Farming in Bowdoinham 1717-2017 display in late June. It will open Sunday, July 23rd for Bowdoinham's Open Farm Day.

Our "Bowdoinham Farm Stories from the 20th Century." was fun and illuminating, but after 2 hours, the Town Hall was cold, and folks were tired, so since there was much more to share, we will do it again in August at the Meeting House with the Farm Display as a backdrop, and in early November. Join us to tell and hear more stories about farming, growing up or working on a farm, large or small during 100 years that went from horses and oxen to tractors! Any type of farm... dairy to beef to sheep or chickens, from hay to vegetables or flowers or even trees. Farmers in the second half of the century, we'd like to hear more from you, please call Elaine Diaz at 666-8255.

At Celebrate Bowdoinham, Saturday, September 9th, BHS will have a Farming in Bowdoinham tent. We also hope to have a float/procession (we need HELP!) featuring old farm tools and horse drawn farm vehicles/machinery. Maybe even some early engine powered equipment. Want to help? Have something to drive/loan? Please email Betsy Steen at bayview-ess@comcast.net or call Elaine Diaz at 666-8255. The overall theme of the Parade this year is Farming in Bowdoinham!!

Has the "cleaning out" bug struck you? Start sorting and saving treasures for the BHS 7th Annual Yard Sale, on Saturday, September 16th. Donate to BHS to sell or sign up for a table space to sell yourself.

We hope that on a Sunday in October, we will have John Bunker, apple expert and historian, will join us for a program on apples.

There is a rumor that BHS's theme for 2018 might be Fire! Fires in town and the men, women, and machines that fought them....fire departments, fire chiefs, auxiliary groups, fire engines, all who have worked, and still work, to protect our town and its people. It's not too early to start turning this over in your mind & to think of ways to contribute. As always we are looking for photos and artifacts to be copied or loaned.

Cruise 'Ins are Back

By Lynn Spiro

Cruise 'In On the Cathance, sponsored by The Town Landing Restaurant, now marks its 9th year in

downtown Bowdoinham. There is no entry fee to exhibit or attend the Cruise 'In On the Cathance.

Everyone bringing a classic or antique car

gets automatic entry into the Door Prize Raffles. Anyone attending can participate in the 50/50 drawing, and buy additional Door Prize Raffle tickets with the proceeds going to Bowdoinham Seniors and Senior Center.

Come and join classic car enthusiasts for this free event at The Town Landing Restaurant, 12 Main Street, in downtown Bowdoinham. Cruise 'In on the Cathance will be held on June 24th, July 22nd, and August 26th, 4-6:30pm.

Celebrate the history of the classic and antique cars that remind us of the memories of our youth, and simple things in life we treasure at this popular event. Stroll the streets, shop and have dinner our locally owned restaurant.



Contact BHS

Mail:
PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email:
info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Website:
www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/thebowdoinham-historical-society

Office Hours:
in the Lancaster-Bishop Archive & Research Room, 13 School Street
on Tuesdays, 10am-12pm & 2-5pm

COBB'S REPAIR SERVICE



AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR & DIESEL SPECIALIST

6 WALLENTINE ROAD - BOWDOINHAM, MAINE 04008

(207) 666-5985

News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Lee Parker

The Merrymeeting Arts Center opened its annual Vernal Pools show for young artists under the age of 18 on Friday, April 7, 2017 with a reception from 5-7 p.m. Over 29 artists participated in the exhibit and over 60 people attended the reception - a record crowd! The exhibit will be open on Saturdays from 10-1 through May 20th.

Traditionally, themes for the young artist shows at MAC are related to the plant and animal life that can be found in and around vernal pools, a key feature of the spring woods in Maine. This year's star, skunk cabbage, is a colorful plant that can be transplanted from the wild into gardens where they provide a lot of benefits. A display of additional helpful plants provided by Betsy Steen and a live Skunk Cabbage provided by Leslie Anderson rounded out the exhibit. The live Skunk Cabbage will be sold at the Bowdoinham Plant Sale on May 20th.

MAC Pottery Project

MAC Pottery Project has been closed during the month of April to enable us to do some much needed cleaning and reorganization. Look for a Grand Reopening on May 6 when we introduce MAC Pottery and Beyond.

MAC Program Committee

The Program Committee meets monthly

on the second Friday of the month from 10-12 at MAC. This committee is responsible for turning "great ideas" that come to us from all of you into "doable exhibits, events and education". If you are interested in helping us there are two ways to do that: attend the monthly meetings OR download the Planning Form that is on the website, fill it out with as much information as you can and return the form to us.

Surveys

The Board of Directors is looking for YOUR input. Over the next few months we will be conducting surveys to find out what interests you! You can tell us what classes you want...when...for how long...for how much! Surveys will be sent electronically to those on our email list. A link to the survey will also be available through our website at www.merrymeetingartscenter.org. Registration forms for classes will be available on the website and in the near future we will enable you to pay for classes online.

Summer at MAC

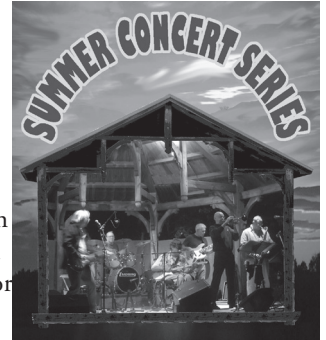
During the month of June the Gallery will be empty so that we can paint and reorganize our space. The Bryceworks room will remain open during this time on Saturdays from 10-1. We will reopen the Gallery on July 23rd with a Woodworking Show entitled "Wood and Whimsy". Look for a Call for Art in early May.

Summer Concert Series

By Earl Bigelow

Once again the Town of Bowdoinham is teaming up with Watersong Music to make the Philip Mailly Waterfront Park the place to be Sunday Evenings. The 2017 Summer Concert Series kicks off with the Blues Buzzards on June 25th. The series will run each Sunday, with a rain date for each following Wednesday, thru August 27th. Each Sunday will bring some popular favorites as well as new names to the Gazebo on the river in downtown Bowdoinham. Earl Bigelow of Watersong Music is seeking community groups interested in serving food each Sunday as last year, so that going to the concerts will be a complete package of dinner and a show at one of the supreme outdoor venues in midcoast Maine.

Some returning features from last year will be The Scott Davis Big Band on July 16th, and Jimi Joe and the Jumble Ayus on July 23rd. Coming to the gazebo for the first time will be Cliff Randall Bluegrass on August 20th. Keep an eye out for the programs and posters for a complete list of the acts for this summers series.



Tidewater Tree Care



- Tree Removals
- Professional Pruning
- View Clearing
- Shrub Pruning

207-613-5458

tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com

*Licensed and Insured

Cote's



BOWDOINHAM

HARDWARE

20 Main Street

Bowdoinham,
Maine

666-8953

Open Farm Day & Art Trail

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 23rd**. The day will begin with farm tours AND studio tours. Then at 3pm the celebration will continue at Maily Waterfront Park for a barbecue featuring fresh foods from local farms and live music. The Barbecue will be catered by Texas Barbecue Co., with members of Village Lodge # 26 AF & AM the local Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham. Stay tuned for more information on the Town's website and Facebook page.

Celebrate Bowdoinham

Mark your calendars, this year Celebrate Bowdoinham will be on **Saturday, September 9th**. The planning for this year's event is underway, so if you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

We will once again be looking for sponsors for a fireworks show and donations for the Silent Auction. If you are interested in donating or becoming a sponsor, please contact Nicole Briand.



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay seeks reliable historic ice-out dates for the area. Please call Ed Friedman at 666-3372 if you can help. Thank you!

CEO Corner

By Darren Carey

Minutes count, this rings true in all facets of life and even more so when it's an emergency. The recommendations below are to ensure that emergency responders can find you as quick as possible. Recommendations for display:

- Numbers shall be displayed in a size and color visible from the road in either direction. (Note: White numbers on a reflective background are strongly suggested.)
- Structures that are within 50 feet of the road shall have numbers displayed on the front of the structure.
- Structures that are over 50 feet from the road or that are not visible from the road should have the number displayed in such a way as to CLEARLY show which home the number has been assigned to.
- Assigned number and road name should be posted near your phone as to insure accurate information in case of an emergency.

Tips for Maintaining Your Septic System

1. Pump your septic tank every two to five years, depending how heavily the system is used. Insist that the pumper clean your septic tank through the manhole in the center of the top of your septic tank.
2. If you use a garbage grinder (a.k.a. "dispose-all"), pump your tank every year. Or, better yet, remove the garbage grinder and compost your kitchen scraps. Garbage grinder use leads to buildups of grease from meat scraps and bones, and insoluble vegetable solids such as cellulose.
3. Keep kitchen grease, such as bacon fat and deep fryer oil, out of your septic system. It is not broken down easily by your system, can clog your drain field, and cannot be dissolved by any readily available solvent that is legal to introduce to groundwater.
4. Space out laundry loads over the course of the week and wash only full loads. The

average load of laundry uses 47 gallons of water. One load per day rather than 7 loads on Saturday makes a big difference to your septic system.

5. Install low usage water fixtures. By installing low water usage showerheads (2.5 gallons/minute), toilets (1.6 gallons), dishwashers (5.3 gallons) and washing machines (14 gallons) an average family can reduce the amount of water entering the septic system by 20,000 gallons per year! Low flow showerheads and toilets can be purchased at local lumberyards. Water saving dishwashers and washing machines can be purchased at better appliance stores.

6. Install a septic tank outlet filter in your tank. These generally sell for \$100 to \$200 depending upon brand and model.

They catch small floating particles and lightweight solids, such as hair, before they can make it out to the disposal area and cause trouble. Some models are also designed to capture suspended grease.

7. Use liquid laundry detergent. Powered laundry detergents use clay as a "carrier." This clay can hasten the buildup of solids in the septic tank and potentially plug the disposal area.

8. Minimize the amount of household cleaners (bleach, harsh cleaners) and similar potentially toxic substances entering the septic system. Note: some substances are not allowed to be introduced into septic systems or groundwater tables.

9. Do not use disinfecting automatic toilet bowl cleaners, such as those containing bleach or acid compounds. The continuous slow release of these chemicals into the septic system kills the micro-organisms which treat your waste water.

10. You do not need to put special additives into your septic system. In fact, some can do more harm than good. Those which advertise that they will remove solids from your tank, usually do. The problem is that the solids exit the tank and end up in the disposal field. Once there, the solids seal off the disposal area, and the system malfunctions.

Clerk's Corner

By Pamela Ross, Town Clerk

Important dates to remember:

- Thursday, May 25th M.S.A.D. #75 Budget Meeting held in the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham at 6:30pm.

- Wednesday, June 7th the Registrar will be available during regular business hours and special hours until 7:00pm for the purpose of correcting the list of voters and to receive applications of persons claiming the right to vote in the upcoming election.

- Tuesday, June 13th State Special Referendum and the M.S.A.D. #75 Budget Referendum Election will be held at the Bowdoinham Town Hall from 8:00am-8:00pm.

30 days before the Election Absentee Ballots will be ready. (Application can be found on our website at www.bowdoinham.com)

- Wednesday, June 14th Town Meeting will be held at the Bowdoinham Community School at 7pm.

Comprehensive Planning Committee

By Joanne Joy, Chair

The Town has a new Comprehensive Planning Committee that began meeting in October 2017. The Committee started its work by reviewing the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2004. This review led the committee to take a deeper look at the 2005 Town of Bowdoinham Waterfront Plan for implementation. At later discussions, the full committee agreed that the original 2005 Waterfront Plan did not need to be revised as it provided guidance that continued to be very useful in 2017. To date, the committee members have walked the trail, visited the current Public Works site, and explored the fields on a snowy day reminding ourselves of the beauty and possibilities of the Waterfront. As the plan to move the Town's Public Works Facility advances, the committee will be working to implement the Town's Waterfront Plan, as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Committee's meetings continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:00 and all are welcome to join us.

Seeking Nominations for Citizen of the Year Award

By William Post, Town Manager

The Town is currently seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year. This award is presented to the selected nominee at the annual Celebrate Bowdoinham event in September.

The criteria for this award are as follows:

- The Citizen of the Year award recipient shall be an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of Bowdoinham citizens, a special individual who shows dedication and spirit beyond what is considered regular duty.

- The following characteristics will be considered: present activities, previous activities, charitable/philanthropic efforts, improvement in the quality of life for Bowdoinham residents, and commitment to the community.

If you would like to nominate someone to receive this award, please contact the Town Manager at 666-5531 or by email at wpost@bowdoinham.com. All nominations will be confidential and will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Select Board. The committee will then forward a recommendation to the Select Board in August.

Phone 207-666-5941 • Cell 207-729-2445

DOUG TOURTELOTTE EXCAVATION

369 Millay Road
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

New Site Prep, Driveways,
Septic Systems, Gravel,
Land Clearing, Treework

Annual Rummage Sale

The 17th Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, May 5th and Saturday, May 6th at the Town Hall. We are collecting donations of gently loved items through Thursday, May 4th.

Early Bird sale begins on Friday at 5pm and ends promptly at 7pm. There is a \$1 dollar donation to get in at this time. The sale will resume on Saturday, from 9am to 12pm.

All proceeds go to Bowdoinham Community School educational opportunities. For more information, please contact Jess Sullivan at 504-7103 (text or call).

Another Theatre Production

By Chris Lajoie, Principal

The Bowdoinham Community School was excited to host parents, relatives, and friends of the school to our second annual Theatre Department production on April 8th. This year's production was an original one-act play – with an extremely long title – that featured four narrators: Comedy, Tragedy, Opera, and Farce. The narrators told the story of a sorceress who puts a curse on all the first-born sons in the land, as revenge for cruelties against her. Many strange and wonderful characters go on a quest to find the secret to lifting the curse and restoring happiness to the land.

The production started with a playmaking workshop held in the Fall. Writer/Director and Producer Dana Wieluns Legawiec led a group of fourth and fifth graders through a series of theatre games and ideas, which eventually led to the story of the original play. Dana fleshed those ideas out into a script, and the play was cast with fifth students across grades K-5. Leading up to the production, students worked with our Costume Supervisor, Tessa Kingsley, to design and create their original costumes. Technical Director, P.J. O'Hanlon, helped us create the scene with lights and effects, and Music Director,

Diana Mosher, helped the students learn three songs for the show, including the powerful final number, "All You Need Is Love," by Lennon and McCartney.

Our kids were fantastic, and our volunteer support, overwhelming. That's the thing with productions like this – they don't happen unless our community makes them happen. Funds for theatre projects at our school are not covered in the school district budget; we rely on fundraising efforts to cover expenses and provide new and better opportunities to the kids every year. One ongoing fundraiser is through our friends at Wicked Joe Coffee. They have created our own unique Bowdoinham coffee blend – "Meaningful Brewing" – which is on sale through the school office throughout the year. \$4 from every bag goes to support the Arts and our Theatre Department at the Community School.

I believe strongly that theatre is an essential experience for students in public elementary school. Luckily, our community is blessed with seasoned professionals like Dana who can help us transform this belief into reality for our children. Our primary objective with the Bowdoinham Community School Theatre Department is to provide rich opportunities for any student to learn about the process of making theatre, from writing to producing, to acting, singing and dancing. Will you join us for our 2018 theatre production?

Cemetery Committee News

By Tony Lewis

The Bowdoinham Cemetery Advisory Committee has been hard at work collecting information regarding cemeteries in town. We have identified cemeteries where we will perform repairs beginning this Spring and through the Summer. If you have ever wanted to learn how to clean or repair headstones, this is a perfect opportunity for you to get involved. On May 18, 19 and 20 we will be conducting hands-on training in town cemeteries. That's right! You will learn the proper technique to clean headstones, make repairs and reset stone to proper placement. This will be an interactive training where you get to immediately apply what you learn! If you like helping preserve the history of Bowdoinham, are interested in cemeteries or are just looking for a way to get involved in your community, let us know. To volunteer with the Committee, please contact Elaine Dias by phone at (207) 666-8255 or Tony Lewis by email at tlewis@bowdoinham.com. Regularly scheduled Committee meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 4:00PM in the Graduate Room of the Coombs School Building.

Jeff  **THE ELECTRICIAN**

WE RETURN CALLS!
735-7774

New Homes • Additions • Garages • Panel Upgrades
Service Calls • Generators • Indoor & Outdoor lighting
• Hot Tubs & Pools • Cable & Internet

Now installing Solar Energy Systems!

www.theelectricianjeff.com
Locally owned and operated in Bowdoinham

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet at the Nazarene church will be open every first and third Wednesday of the month from 3-6 pm beginning May 1st.

Donations of clean clothes in good condition can be dropped off at that time as well. Anyone who wishes to volunteer is also welcome. There is no charge or registration process to use the clothes closet, but those who wish to contribute are welcome to do so.

The Clothes Closet is located at 7 School St. in Bowdoinham. For more information, contact Christina at 351-0289 or followingtheson@hotmail.com.

Food Pantry News

By Linda Jariz

The Food Pantry is a 501c3 non-profit organization providing supplemental food to residents of Bowdoinham and Bowdoin. Your donations are tax deductible! The Pantry is open on Wednesdays from 3pm to 6pm at the FHC building near Maily Waterfront Park in Bowdoinham. The Food Pantry is operated solely by volunteers. There are no paid staff. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at 751-7779.

Please note that, unlike SNAP benefits (otherwise known as food stamps), the Bowdoinham Food Pantry does not have eligibility criteria that would disqualify anyone who has been terminated from the SNAP program. If you have a need for supplemental food, regardless of whether or not you are eligible for SNAP, please visit us.

Plant a Row for Hunger is a program for home gardeners. Last year several gardeners grew extra food for the Food Pantry. To participate, please add a row of vegetables to your garden and donate the produce to the Food Pantry during the growing season. This is an important program which provides nutritious, fresh produce to Food Pantry participants.

The **US Post Office Mothers' Day Food Drive** is coming up on May 13th. The Post Office collects your nonperishable donations and passes them on to local food pantries. The Bowdoinham Post Office shares the food collected with the Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry will be working with Kate Cutko at the Bowdoinham Library during the summer months to help support students who participate in the school backpack program. **The Backpack Program** provides food to students who need supplemental food over the weekend during the school year, and this will help close a gap during the summer. Stay tuned for more details on this new effort. For more information on any of the above programs, please contact us at 751-7779. We are extremely grateful for the wonderful community support.

Dig Deep

By Cathy Reynolds

The 44th annual Bowdoinham Public Library Plant Sale will be held May 20th and **YOUR PLANTS ARE NEEDED**. Last year's drought prevented us from growing many plants in the holding beds, so we are asking you to look at your gardens if you have any and consider which plants need to be divided. Librarian Kate Cutko will have a list of the plants we need and how many of each we hope to sell, as will Betsy Steen (bayviewess@comcast.net). Please let one of them know so no one else replicates your effort. If you are able to dig, pot, label and deliver the plants to the dirt pile at Betsy's house, thank you! If not, please let us know you have the plants and we'll set something up- we can provide diggers or pots, or you can drop a clump of plants off at the dirt pile during digging season and we'll take it from there. PLEASE label the plants with their NAME, COLOR and your name and phone number in case we have a question about them. Extra seedlings you start at home are welcome too.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED even if you can't tell a weed from a watermelon. We need folks to dig, pot, label, carry and water plants (someone who knows how will be there too - we all learned at some time and are happy to pass the knowledge and skills along.) We have morning and afternoon work hours, weather and other commitments permitting.

Please check with Kate at the Library for contact info if you're interested, or stop by if you see us working at the dirt pile, next to Bayview Cemetery. Children who are good at following directions and staying away from the road are not only welcome



but often very good helpers, though those who'd like to bring dirt pile toys are welcome too. Teens who need volunteer hours should note that we need them too. Many hands make light work (and money for library programs!)

Digging will start April 17th - 28th but we'll really get going May 1st through 12th. Plant movers (including trucks and trailers) will be needed May 17th and 20th, and annuals will be moved into the hall hand-to-hand the morning of the 19th in a plant brigade. Pricing and more labeling occurs May 18th and 19th. Sale workers for the 20th include talliers and cashiers, these jobs can be from 2 to 7 hours, whatever fits your schedule. The traffic crew only needs to work for a few hours in the morning, as do the wagon helpers. The all-important clean-up crew is another short term job - usually an hour or so. A more flexible option is helping Tessa Kingsley, our extraordinary Town Hall Fairy, to keep us fed.

Call the library 666-8405 to see how you can get involved!



44th Annual Bowdoinham Library PLANT SALE

May 20th
9am to 4pm
at Town Hall

Perennials, Herbs,
Vegetable,
Annual Seedlings,
Trees and Shrubs

(Clever folks bring boxes.)



News from Advisory Committee on Aging

By Patricia Oh

The snow has finally left Bowdoinham! It was a long winter, which makes it even more exciting to get out and celebrate spring and summer. Most of us know that smoking cigarettes is bad for your health but there is something that is just as dangerous—loneliness. According to a recent study, spending time with family, friends and neighbors increases your chances of living to a healthy old age by 50%! The good news is that, in age-friendly Bowdoinham, there are lots of opportunities to spend time with your friends and neighbors.

One way to catch up with your friends and neighbors in Bowdoinham is to join us for some of the many activities we offer. On the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursday of the month from 10am to 12pm, the **Coffee Café** is held at the Fire Station. This is an informal gathering for conversation, board games, cribbage, mahjongg, or whatever interests you. There is always warm coffee and some weeks include light refreshment! **Weekly Bridge** meets each Monday in the Puzzle Room at Bowdoinham Estates. People whose Bridge skills are a little rusty are welcomed along with those who play frequently. **Craft, Laugh, and Learn** meets on the third Thursday of

each month at 10:00 at the Fire Station. The craft is different each month; it is a great opportunity to try something new!

What is more fun than eating together? There are three chances each month to enjoy lunch with friends. On the 2nd Thursday at 12:00, lunch is served at Bowdoinham Estates. Cost: \$4.00. Lunch with Lynn is served at the Town Landing on the third Wednesday of the month. Cost: \$6.50. Join the Village Elders in the Basement of the Second Baptist Church (won't meet in July or August). Cost: Donations.

Age-Friendly Bowdoinham also has ways for you to have fun while you are working off the calories from a delicious lunch!

Bowdoinham Outdoors, an email list for active people 60+ who want to enjoy the outdoors together, is ready to celebrate with a summer of hiking, kayaking, and adventuring. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Linda Jariz (email: ljriz123@gmail.com).

Line Dancing meets twice each month! Led by George Oliver, this workshop is geared for adults of all ages. Beginners and all levels of experience welcome! It is a great way to meet new people while staying fit! Both meetings are at the Fire Station. The first meeting is from 9-10:30

on the first Tuesday of the month. The second meeting is from 6:00-7:30 on the third Tuesday. FMI, email George at golivergo5@gmail.com.

Gentle yoga meets each Thursday at 9AM in the Kendall Rom at the Town Office. The class is for people of all ages. Even if you have never taken a yoga class before, you will enjoy the gentle stretches that Lina leads us through. The fee for the class is \$3/week.

Do you have ideas for other activities? Would you like to offer a class or lead an activity? Please let us know! Email: poh@bowdoinham.com or Call Missy at the Town Office (207-666-5531).

If you want to stay caught up with the latest information about the activities and events that Age-Friendly Bowdoinham is planning, go to our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/AgeFriendlyBowdoinham. The Activity and Resource List is also available online at: <http://www.bowdoinham.com/COA-activities-and-resources>. Print copies are available at the Town Landing, at the Bowdoinham Public Library, and at the Town Office. To be added to our email or postal mail list, contact Missy at the town office (email: assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com or phone: 666-5531).

Caregiver Support Group

Providing care for a loved one with dementia is challenging. Age-Friendly Bowdoinham wants family Caregivers to have the resources and support they need to do the work they do. The Caregiver Support Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 on the second floor of the Coombs Municipal Building. It is facilitated by Nancy Herk, the executive director of Brunswick Respite. To register or FMI, call Nancy at 207.729.8571



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Building Strong Support for Elders

Age-Friendly Bowdoinham invites you to join us on **Wednesday, June 15, 9:30am** at the **Bowdoinham Fire Station** for a free community event featuring

Skit: Stories from Around the Quilt

Information from these Experts!

Joel Merry, Sagadahoc County Sheriff Dept. - What can the police do to help?

Jane Margesson, AARP Maine - How to stop fraud before you become a victim.

**Patty Kimball, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine-
Learn how you can take a stand against elder abuse.**

A light breakfast will start the day.

To register, contact Missy at the Town Office (phone: 666-3151 or email: assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com).

BCDI News

By Andy Cutko

Founded by forward-thinking community members in 2012, the Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative is a local non-profit dedicated to supporting the businesses, farms, and arts community that help make Bowdoinham such a great place to live. In the last five years, through its innovative 'neighbor to neighbor' investment program, BCDI has generated more than \$70,000 in loans to local farms and small enterprises. We have recently solicited investments from community members for a loan to Apple Creek Farm, operated by Jake Galle and Abby Sadauckas. Apple Creek is expanding its operations with livestock fencing and improved access to water, which will allow the farm to grow and meet increasing demand for its products. BCDI is also involved in multiple conversations with other local businesses about potential loans this year.

We recently completed an important strategic planning process, facilitated by organizational consultants Lift360. Our consultants helped us evaluate our mission, financial underpinnings, Board and staffing structure, and membership and development needs. They also sought input from our stakeholders and partners in the community. Through this process

the BCDI Board affirmed the significance and utility of our loan program as a core function, highlighted our focus on Bowdoinham's farmers and farmlands, and recognized the potential to support private-sector revitalization of the commercial area of the village. The results of our strategic planning will ultimately make BCDI stronger, more efficient, and sustainable over the long term. The process was particularly timely as David Whittlesey, one of our founders and the 'wizard behind the curtain' transitioned from a paid consultant to a Board member. Our planning effort has been generously supported by grants from the Maine Community Foundation, Sewall Foundation, New England Grassroots Foundation, and Bowdoin Common Good program.

While private grants help support our specific projects, BCDI membership connects members with our community and provides us with critical ongoing financial support. BCDI membership is also required by the Maine Securities Administration to either apply for a loan or to participate in an investment opportunity. If you are interested in becoming a member (or if you are a member interested in making a donation), please contact BCDI Board Chair Andy Cutko at andy.cutko@comcast.net. Learn more about our organization on our Facebook page, or contact Andy or other BCDI Board members.

Have you heard of the Town's Tax Club?

By William Post, Town Manager

The Town of Bowdoinham now offers a "Tax Club Plan" that allows property owners to pay their annual property tax bill in monthly installments without incurring interest. This plan was first authorized by a vote at the annual town meeting in June 2014 and is expected to be offered again this July after town meeting approval.

To be eligible to participate in this plan, the property owner must be current with their property taxes, must enroll no later than July 31, 2017 and must abide by the requirements of the plan. Automatic electronic payments are not offered under this plan, but property owners can schedule payments online through the Town's online payment system. For more information on the 2018 Tax Club Plan, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531, or email the Town Manager at wpost@bowdoinham.com or Melissa Halsey at assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com.

This is an easier way to pay your property taxes in smaller monthly payments without incurring any interest. We are pleased to be able to offer this payment option to our residents.



DARI HURLEY
www.DariHurley.com

RE/MAX RIVERSIDE
1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Suite 101
Topsham, ME 04086

Think of me for your Real Estate needs!

207-446-2273

The advertisement features a black and white portrait of Dari Hurley, a woman with glasses, smiling. To the right of the portrait is a hot air balloon with the RE/MAX logo. The background is dark with white text and a white banner at the bottom.

Solid Waste and Recycling Barn

Barn Hours:

Thursday & Saturday: 8am-4pm

Trash & Recycling Pick-up:

Thursday

Contact Information:

Phone:

Barn - 666-3228

David Berry, Director - 751-2809

Email: dberry@bowdoinham.com

Website: www.bowdoinham.com/solid-waste-recycling

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

May

5th

14th Annual Rummage Sale, 5-7pm
Town Hall, 13 School St

6th

14th Annual Rummage Sale, 9am-12pm
Town Hall, 13 School St

9th

Public Hearing on Town Meeting Warrant
Kendall Meeting Room, 5:30pm

18, 19, 20th

Cemetery Maintenance Training

13th

USPS Food Drive

20th

Library Plant Sale, 9am-4pm
Town Hall

25th

MSAD 75 Budget Meeting, 6:30pm
Orion Performing Arts Center, Topsham

29th

Town Office Closed
In observance of Memorial Day

June

10th

Farmers' Market Opening Day
Maily Waterfront Park

12th

Bowdoinham Businesses Meeting, 6:30pm
Merrymeeting Arts Center

13th

MSAD 75 Budget Referendum Election
Town Hall, 8am-8pm

14th

Town Meeting, 7pm
Bowdoinham Community School

15th

ACOA Event, 9:30am
Bowdoinham Fire Station

24th

Cruise-in on Cathance, 4-6:30pm
Town Landing Restaurant

25th

Summer Concert, 6-8pm
Maily Waterfront Park

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held in 2nd Floor Meeting Room at John C. Coombs Municipal Building.

Select Board Meetings

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of Month at 5:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Committee on Aging

3rd Monday of Month at 3:00pm

Community Development Advisory

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Town Office

Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 8:30am-4pm

Wed: 9am-6pm

Tax Assessor: Wed, 9am-5pm

General Assistance: Fri, 8:30am-4pm

Phone: 666-5531 Fax: 666-5532

Website: www.bowdoinham.com

For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at www.bowdoinham.com/calendar.

**Town of Bowdoinham
13 School Street
Bowdoinham, ME 04008**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**PRST STD
U.S. POSTAL
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2
BOWDOINHAM, ME
04008**

**ECR WSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**