

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 1

www.bowdoinham.com

February 2011

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton

### THE ARBORISTS OF BOWDOINHAM

**Note:** According to the Maine Department of Forestry, the area of Route 24 (Bay Road) from the Bowdoinham Village to the Topsham town line will experience another year of a severe outbreak of Brountail Moth. A detailed article about the infestation follows in this newsletter. Because of the expected outbreak, we are highlighting Bowdoinham arborists that may be able to help out with the outbreak or tend to your other tree needs: ADS Tree Service and Egan and Sons.

**B**y definition, an arborist is a person who, for compensation, takes down or fells, diagnoses or evaluates the condition of shade or ornamental trees; solicits, recommends or supervises the treatment of those trees; or in any manner or for any purpose treats or cares for those trees.

In Maine, there are four classes of arborists: Apprentice, First Class Landscape Arborist, First Class Utility Arborist, and Master Landscape or Master Utility Arborists. An Apprentice is an unlicensed individual working under the supervision of a licensed arborist. A First Class Landscape Arborist is an individual who is primarily concerned with the planting and care of shade or ornamental trees while a First Class Utility Arborist works primarily in the proximity of electrical transmission, distribution and/or other utility lines. Lastly, a Master Arborist (Landscape or Utility) is an individual who has a minimum of five years of experience as a First Class Arborist, has successfully completed the Master Arborist examination and holds a valid Maine Pesticide Applicator License in outdoor ornamentals.

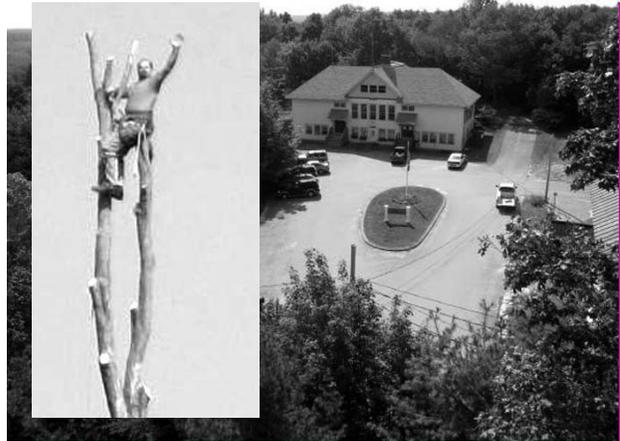
Let it be known that I am absolutely terrified of heights so anyone who is going to climb a tree or stand in a bucket loader sixty feet above ground has my utmost respect. If I so much as climb a ladder I begin to shake! I was therefore curious about what would attract anyone to this career path. Meet Scott Gallant and Mike Egan:

#### ADS Tree Service

Scott Gallant is the owner of ADS Tree Service located at 15 School Street. He has first hand knowledge of dealing with the Browntail moth as he has successfully eradicated the moths for some of his customers in the Harpswell area. He advises that the time to remove the nests is in the winter when they are dormant. He adds that it is very important to know how and where to prune the tree so as

not to kill the tree in an effort to save it! While oak trees are very susceptible to the Browntail moth, Scott confirms that they are one of the safest to climb and prune since they are a hardwood tree. Once Scott removes the nests from the tree, he places the nests in soapy water—a safe and effective way to kill the nests.

*Continued on page 2*



*Inset: Scott Gallant atop Brad and Jen Foley's old maple. Birds eye view of the Bowdoinham Town Office taken from the same tree.*

Photos by Scott and Kathy Gallant

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## The Arborists of Bowdoinham *Continued from page 1*

Scott is a First Class Utility Arborist and therefore an expert in dealing with trees near utility lines. He has been in the business for over 25 years and prefers the traditional way of downing a tree – by climbing it! Though he concedes that he climbs trees more like a three-toed sloth and not like a squirrel of his younger days, safety is always first on his mind which is why his lanyards are steel cored. And of course, heights are not a problem for Scott!

Scott believes that what sets him apart from other arborists is his instinct. “After 25 years of tree work, I instinctively know how to take a tree down safely, while also protecting my clients’ property. That ability only comes from many, many years of experience as well as my State-required courses in identification and safety that I needed to complete to become licensed.”

Scott will travel anywhere within the state of Maine and even traveled as far as Moxie Pond to take down a 120-foot pine tree! The best part of his job is “the accomplishment of taking down a big, dangerous tree. The views from the tree tops have been spectacular. I actually had an eagle land in the tree next to me one time. I don’t know who was more surprised, him or me!”

Scott can be reached at 838-8733 or at [mainetreeguy@yahoo.com](mailto:mainetreeguy@yahoo.com). His website is [www.Mainetreeguy.com](http://www.Mainetreeguy.com)

### Egan & Sons

Michael Egan is the owner of Egan & Sons located at 98 Post Road. He is a First Class Utility Arborist and a First Class Landscape Arborist and though he has only been licensed for two years, he has been doing tree cutting and saw work for over 20 years. He too has treated Browntail moth. His first memory of serious tree climbing was when he was eleven years old. His family had a pair of 50’ pine trees standing side by side. At eleven, he decided to jump from one tree top to the other. Unfortunately, his mother saw this antic from the kitchen window and when he came home from school the following day, both trees were gone!

Mike believes that his low overhead is what sets him apart from some of the big name tree service companies. His goal is to provide safe, quality work at an affordable price. He has the same credentials as the big companies as well as the insurance coverage but he prefers to work for himself, noting, “When I believe it’s time to call it a day, I put my equipment away and return the next day so as not to push myself beyond the point of safety.”

Mike’s most difficult job to date was a “monster” oak tree on Pleasant Pond that he describes as 8-10 feet in circumference and 100 feet high. What was most difficult about this tree is that the entire tree was leaning over the roof of a house.



*Michael Egan and Sons*

Though it seemed daunting at first, by cutting the tree one section at a time, he was able to safely down the tree.

Mike’s recent purchase is a 47’ working height bucket truck that allows him to carry all of his equipment in one spot making the job quicker and easier. Of course, he continues to climb trees when the truck is not able to reach the area. Though his first official job with the truck was to down a tree that hung over the Pratt Road, his first unofficial use of the truck was to use it to lower his neighbor’s ice fishing shack over the culvert of the Ridge Road to the ice below! He chuckles that his sons Spencer and Thomas will probably remember that for the rest of their lives. Speaking of his sons, 13 year-old Thomas and 11 year-old Spencer often help their dad out with hauling the brush for chipping.

Word of mouth has proven to be Mike’s best way to advertise though he reports that he has received a couple of jobs through advertising on the Town’s website. He will travel throughout the state but 90% of his work has been in the local area. What Mike enjoys the most about his job? “Working outdoors, putting in an honest day of labor and coming home physically tired”.

Mike can be reached at 666-5671 or email at [mseinme@comcast.net](mailto:mseinme@comcast.net)

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

## E-Readers at the Library Take Bowdoinham to the Edge

By Kate Cutko

When I interviewed the librarian at a large city library in central Maine about that library's loan of e-Readers to their patrons, she was surprised to hear that a library the size of Bowdoinham's was considering doing the same. "For a small library to loan e-Readers, you would be at the cutting edge." So that's where we are folks, at the cutting edge. Bowdoinham Public Library has just purchased two e-Readers, an Amazon Kindle and a Nook made by Barnes and Noble. Both are available for anyone with a library card to borrow for two weeks at a time. Both readers are pre-loaded with 10 bestselling books.

For some of you, this may be all new technology, but it need not be intimidating. An e-Reader is an electronic device made to view digital versions of written material such as books and newspapers. It has a screen which is about the size of a small paperback novel and uses "e-Ink technology" designed to be very easy to read with minimal eye strain, unlike a backlit computer screen. The font can be adjusted to a variety of sizes, which is a wonderful feature for readers with vision problems. Reading a book on an e-Reader is as simple as turning it on and finding the page where you left off.

The library board was unanimous in its vote to bring this technology to Bowdoinham for citizens to try out. Our board sees e-readers as just another way that people are accessing their reading materials. E-readers are not intended to be a replacement for printed books, but a supplement, similar to the way that some people enjoy audio books. Ask users of e-Readers and you will hear a variety of reasons they like their book on a Kindle or a Nook. One reader likes the ease of carrying the equivalent of a hundred novels in one small device when she travels. Another reader likes the ability to enlarge the print and not pay the high price of a large print book. My favorite was the reader who keeps warmer while using her e-Reader in bed, since she only needs "one hand to hold the reader with one thumb to turn the page."

Our library is now part of a consortium which offers audio books and eBooks for free download. More than 1,400 books spanning best-selling Fiction, Non-Fiction, Young Adult and Children's content are now available through Maine InfoNet as downloadable eBooks. This is in addition to the ever-growing collection of downloadable audiobooks also available at the site, currently totaling over 1800 books. The Maine InfoNet Download Library is located online at <http://download.maineinfonet.org>.



The library will host a number of "drop in" information sessions to answer questions about the e-Readers and the Downloadable Audio Project. If you have a laptop with wireless capabilities, bring that along for a hands-on demonstration.

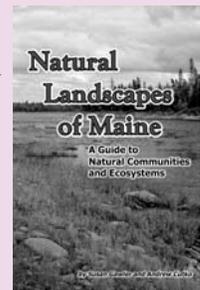
Tuesday, March 8, from 12-1 pm  
 Tuesday, March 8, from 6-7 pm  
 Tuesday, March 15, from 12-1 pm  
 Tuesday March 15, from 6-7 pm.



## Bowdoinham Public Library Events

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**—Plant Sale  
 Organizational Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
 New volunteers welcomed!

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**—  
 "Maine's Special  
 Places", a talk by  
 Andy Cutko,  
 Bowdoinham  
 resident and  
 co-author of  
*Natural  
 Landscapes of  
 Maine: a Guide  
 to Natural Communities and  
 Ecosystems*, 7pm.



**April 25<sup>th</sup>**—Friends of the Library  
 Quarterly Meeting, 7:00

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**—Bowdoinham Library's  
 38th Annual Plant Sale, 9am-4pm,  
 Town Hall

## Don't Miss the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual... Bowdoinham Library PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 21<sup>th</sup>  
 Bowdoinham Town Hall

9:00-4:00

Perennials, Herbs,  
 Vegetable and Annual Seedlings  
 Trees and Shrubs

For more information  
 Call 666-8405, 666-3459, 666-3468, 666-5957  
 or email [kcutko@bowdoinham.lib.me.us](mailto:kcutko@bowdoinham.lib.me.us)  
 (You'll be glad you brought  
 baskets and boxes!)



## Recreation Department News

By Brooke Cox

**Village Seniors:** Most of the activities happen on Thursdays throughout each month. The 2nd Thursday of every month there is a lunch at Bowdoinham Estates with free bingo to follow; the 3rd Thursday of every month is game day at the 2nd Baptist Church at 10:00am. The 4th Thursday of every month there is a lunch at the 2nd Baptist Church, with social time at 11:00 and lunch is usually served around 11:45am.

How about a trip to The Botanical Gardens in Boothbay in May? Please check out the Calendar on the Town's website [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) for updates.

**Basketball:** We had 6 teams in the Ararat Youth Basketball League at the 3rd & 4th grade level, with a total of 55 players and 12 coaches. I would like to

thank the coaches, players and parents for all of the time and effort that you put into the program. Bowdoinham hosted 31 games which meant that our dedicated volunteer referees, score board and score keepers were very busy! Our program would not be nearly as successful without the ongoing generosity of all the volunteers that are involved...Thank You! I think we have set a record for the number of Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade basketball players: 22, 25, and 19 respectfully. Thank you to the parents for helping out with the program!

### Family Swim at Bowdoin College:

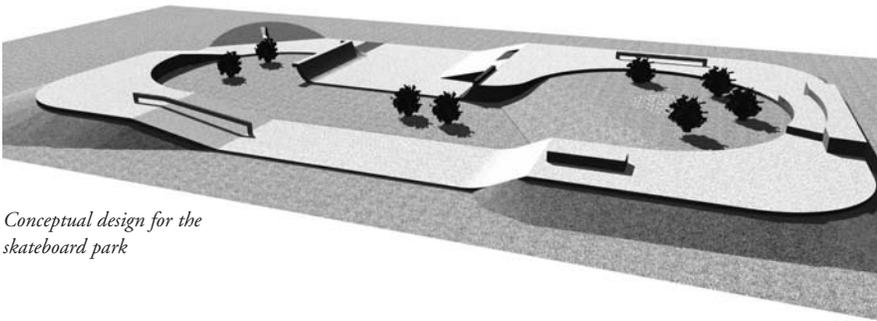
Join in on the fun at the Bowdoin College Pool Sunday afternoons 4:30-5:30. It runs through April 24th (excluding March 13th). Please check out our website for details.

**Baseball, Softball, T-Ball:** Please be watching for these registrations mid-February. They are due back on or before March 14th. Please register on time as teams need to be formed and uniforms need to be ordered; late registrations will be accepted only if space is available. You may also find a copy of the registration form on our Town's website: [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) and visit the Recreation page under Town Government.

**Richard Ferrier Scholarship** application deadline is April 1st and the application is available online on the Recreation page of our Town's website. See page 4 for more information.

Please refer to the Town website ([www.bowdoinham.com/recreation](http://www.bowdoinham.com/recreation)) for the programs above and please check it periodically for updates! If you have any questions, please call / email Brooke at 666-3504 / [bcox@bowdoinham.com](mailto:bcox@bowdoinham.com).

## Skateboarders, We're Looking for Your Input



Conceptual design for the skateboard park

### “Wheelie” Skateboard Park Project Update

In June of 2004 the Town approved the development of a skateboard park to be located next to the Town's Public Works Facility. Since then approximately \$18,000 has been raised toward the development of the park, but issues regarding the exact location of the park have slowed the project. The original location interfered with an existing septic system, and a second location created problems with access to the boat launch area at the waterfront. We are currently exploring a site behind the 6 Main Street building, parallel to the RR tracks. The property has been surveyed and preliminary engineering work completed to ensure that the site can support the park. Town and State permits will be necessary to finalize this location.

We have developed a draft conceptual design for the project and will be looking for and applying for grants for the development of the park. We will need approval at Town Meeting to locate the park at this site. We're just beginning the design phase of the park and are looking for skateboarders to help us develop the design. Contact Nicole at 666-5531 or [nbriand@bowdoinham.com](mailto:nbriand@bowdoinham.com)

## Get Involved! Town of Bowdoinham Committee Openings

**Community Development  
Advisory Committee—**  
1 member

**Planning Board—**  
1 alternate member

**Biking Walking Paddling  
Group—**  
1 member & 1 alternate member

**Comprehensive Planning  
Committee—**  
6 members

For more information contact  
Kathy Durgin-Leighton at  
666-5531 or email at  
[kleighton@bowdoinham.com](mailto:kleighton@bowdoinham.com)

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## Comprehensive Plan— Update

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, your new Comprehensive Planning Committee.

We, the Comprehensive Planning Committee want to create a Comprehensive Plan that represents what the Townspeople of Bowdoinham really want. In order for us to accomplish this goal, we need to hear from you . . . please help us in shaping our community's future.

Why should you? How does the Comprehensive Plan affect you? The short answer is that the Comprehensive Plan is a ten year plan for the Town, which lays out the work (projects and ordinance changes) the Town should undertake in order to meet its goals.

- Projects . . . what projects? Should the Town have sidewalks? Should the Town work to get cable and/or internet service? Does the Town need other infrastructure improvements?

- Ordinance changes? Yes, the Comprehensive Plan is the basis for the Town's ordinances.

We will be asking you these types of questions in the future, but the first step is to determine what the vision and goals for the Town of Bowdoinham are. Our vision and goals are the foundation for the Comprehensive Plan. Please help us create a strong foundation and think about the following questions:

- Why do you live in Bowdoinham?
- What do you like about Bowdoinham?
- What is important to/for Bowdoinham?
- What makes Bowdoinham special?



We look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please stay tuned for more information.

If you are interested in helping to shape Bowdoinham's future, you can get involved in any (or all) of the following ways: join our Committee, sign-up to receive Committee emails, sign-up for our email newsletter (with project updates) and/or join us on Facebook. Please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com for more information.

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## What's New in the Bowdoinham Business Directory?

One of Bowdoinham's most valuable assets is the great number and variety of local businesses. But think about this: In the last month, how many local businesses have you bought something from? One or two? Three, maybe? One simple and effective way that we can all help empower our local economy is to think more, and think more often, about choosing a local business instead of spending our money out of town.

On the main Business page of the Town website, you'll see a list of just some of the types of businesses we have:

Furniture Repair, Upholstery, Surveying, Picture Framing, Meat and Produce, Farm Shares, Kayaks, Welding, Tree Work, Electrician Services, Furnishings, Home Decor, Honey, Pepper Products, Helicopter Service, Back Office Services, Website Development, Restaurant . . .

How many of these goods and services have you purchased locally, lately?

You can read about local businesses on the Town website in a number of ways:

- Search for a business by name, category, or keyword at [www.bowdoinham.com/business](http://www.bowdoinham.com/business).

- When you visit the home page, take a look at the Local Business Spotlight, a showcase of an individual local business that you might not know about. The Spotlight shows local businesses on a rotating basis, so next time you visit you can read about another business.

- See newly listed businesses, at the bottom of the Business page (same url as above).

Newly added to the Bowdoinham Business Directory is a feature for local businesses that are members of the Merrymeeting Bay Business Association, a logo on the company's profile page, and link to the association page. Click through to the MBBA page (click on the logo) to see other local businesses that are MBBA members; and from there you

can click through to any of the businesses listed, to see their business profile.

**And, a call to all local business owners:**

We have over fifty local businesses newly updated in the Directory, but we know there are many more than that in town. If you haven't sent in your business listing, please take five minutes to do so. You can:

- Pick up a form at the Town Offices, or

- Fill out a form online, at [www.bowdoinham.com/business-listing](http://www.bowdoinham.com/business-listing)

It's free, it only takes a few minutes, and it will help raise awareness of your business.

Questions? Please feel free to email Todd Woofenden, [todd@signallightbooks.com](mailto:todd@signallightbooks.com), or call/leave a phone message for Todd at 666-5826.

Find Local Products and Services in the Bowdoinham Business Directory  
[www.bowdoinham.com/business](http://www.bowdoinham.com/business)

## “WAITT” We’re All In This Together

By Peter Sullivan

A previous Bowdoinham newsletter contained an article about WAITT. It explained that WAITT was just getting started and announced the first meeting date in November. Since then there have been several meetings to further discuss how WAITT can best serve the community. In general, WAITT is simply a matching process where local residents able to provide limited support are placed with those in Bowdoinham needing that support.

The expectation that there were folks in town who could use some help has proven to be the case. The second assumption of there being neighbors with some free time able to help was also true. WAITT’s goal is to continue to satisfy as many requests for assistance as reasonably possible while not overburdening the volunteers. WAITT participants have enjoyed the experience so far. We are focused on continuing that trend. Being nine or ninety doesn’t matter, we all prefer to be involved with something not only rewarding but also pleasant.

So far WAITT has been able to assist Bowdoinham folks primarily with transportation needs and light shoveling services. But it has been challenging to balance the number of volunteers against the number necessary to help our neighbors—having too few or even too many posed issues. Recruitment efforts to date have been aimed at maintaining a balance between the two groups.

As a result of WAITT’s success we find ourselves in need of additional volunteers. While it is unclear just what will be asked of WAITT over the next year or two we have seen some trends regarding requests. Currently, there is a



need for additional volunteers who are available weekdays. Secondly, there is an opportunity for WAITT to expand its transportation services. It is uncertain what we will be able to do in this regard. But it is apparent that the amount of volunteer support available for drivers will significantly influence our transportation service effort. WAITT is currently keeping up with demands but we anticipate additional requests and want to have enough folks in reserve that no one is called upon too often.

If you would like to talk about the program or join the WAITT effort as a volunteer please contact Peter Sullivan, 737-2127.

## WAITT Service

If you are a senior citizen, WAITT volunteers will deliver a free bucket of sand to your home from the Town’s courtesy sand pile. Call the town office if you would like to receive this service at 666-5531.

## Baled Hay & Firewood

- Garden Preparation
- Tilling/Plowing
- Field Maintenance
- Mowing/Bushhogging

## HOBART FARM

239 Ridge Road  
Bowdoinham, Maine 04008

666-3075  
bhobart@zwi.net

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RENOVATIONS**

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**666-3371**

ChristianRobinsonPlumbing@gmail.com

“Peggy the Plumber” Christian      Mark M. Robinson  
Master Plumber #M590010707      Master Plumber #M590010708

## Plumbing Tip from Peggy the Plumber

### Do You Know Where Your Shut-offs Are?

If your water needs to be turned off quickly you should not be searching for the appropriate valve in a panic. Know where it is located.

There should be shut-offs under every sink, toilet and to every outside faucet.

To shut off water to the entire house go to where the water piping enters your house. If you are on a well there should be a main shut-off on the house side of your pressure tank. If you are on town water there should be a shut-off by your water meter.

Remember, it is important to make sure they actually function before you need them.

## Three Scholarship Opportunities Available to Bowdoinham Students

**B**owdoinham students are fortunate to have available to them three different scholarship opportunities: Ferrier Scholarship, Bowdoinham Community School Scholarship and Masonic Lodge Scholarship.

**The Ferrier Scholarship** is for Bowdoinham residents between the ages of 13 and 18 to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment.

**The Bowdoinham Community School Scholarship** is for BCS graduates who wish to further their education in a technical field, the liberal arts, or an alternative course of study.

**The Masonic Lodge** in Bowdoinham awards two \$1,000 **scholarships** to high school seniors who are pursuing advanced education beyond grade 12.

For detailed information regarding these scholarships and how to apply, please see the corresponding articles.

### Scholarships Available to Bowdoinham Teens

**BOWDOINHAM and ELLSWORTH**—Is there something you want to do? Do you want to take music lessons, attend a camp, travel to Europe? The Maine Community Foundation's Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship offers assistance to Bowdoinham residents between the ages of 13 and 18 to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment.

The application process is simple and well worth the effort. Since the inception of the scholarship, over \$50,000 has been awarded to Bowdoinham teens so that they could expand their horizons by participating in activities such as cross country running camp, golf camp, voice lessons, equestrian training, dance lessons, martial arts lessons, travel, and much more.

Eligible applicants must be residents of Bowdoinham. Preference is given to applicants who have lived in Bowdoinham for at least one full year, and demonstrate a need for financial

assistance. The scholarship committee encourages all Bowdoinham teens to apply.

In order to be considered, all applications for the Ferrier Scholarship must be postmarked by April 1, 2011. Applications are available on the web under the Recreation Dept at [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com), and on the Maine Community Foundation website at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org). Applications are also available at the Bowdoinham Town Office and the Bowdoinham Public Library. Apply—it's worth it!

Please contact members of the committee with any questions: Erin Carrigan ([carrigane@link75.org](mailto:carrigane@link75.org)), Marla Blake ([mrlake@gwi.net](mailto:mrlake@gwi.net)), Brooke Cox ([bcox@bowdoinham.com](mailto:bcox@bowdoinham.com)), or Jill Hooper ([hoopersj@comcast.net](mailto:hoopersj@comcast.net)). You may also contact Maine Community Foundations directly at [www.mainecef.org](http://www.mainecef.org) or by phone 1-877-700-6800.

### Bowdoinham Community School Alumni Scholarship

The Bowdoinham Community School Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate of BCS who is pursuing further education in a technical field, the liberal arts or an alternative course of study. One scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded to a student graduating from high school at the end of this academic year. Applications will be available at Mt. Ararat High School and at the Bowdoinham Town Offices later in the spring and must be submitted by the stated May deadline.

High school seniors applying for the scholarship will be asked to respond to a few questions and to describe in detail a favorite memory of their Bowdoinham Community School years. Applicants will be asked to submit a budget for their education or training plan after high school. The Committee is interested in the plans of BCS graduates and welcomes all applications.



The Bowdoinham Community School Scholarship was established in 1996 by a group of Bowdoinham Community School alumni who cherish their memories of the school and the town. It has been funded by alumni, businesses and memorial contributions. Those interested in contributing to help sustain the fund can do so by contacting the Bowdoinham Town Office.

### Masonic Scholarship Award

The Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham awarded two \$1,000 Scholarships in May 2010. The first went to Rebekah Bryer of Bowdoinham who is attending Wheaton College at Norton, Massachusetts; the second went to Zachary Towne of Richmond who is attending the University of New England at Biddeford, Maine.

The Masonic Lodge in Bowdoinham will again be awarding two \$1,000 Scholarships in May 2011. One will go to a student who lives in Bowdoinham or Topsham. The other will go to a student in Richmond. These scholarships are for high school students pursuing advanced education beyond grade 12, have good moral character, have a financial need, and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Applications must be received by May 1, 2011. For an application and/or more information, e-mail [avchapman3@gmail.com](mailto:avchapman3@gmail.com)

**BRIAN SMITH**  
SURVEYING, INC.

**BRIAN B. SMITH, PLS#1175**  
[bss@briansmithsurveying.com](mailto:bss@briansmithsurveying.com)

213 Main Street  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
Tel. 666-3268

## Brown Tail Moth Likely to be Severe in Bowdoinham

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton (with information from the Maine Forest Service website)

According to the most recent survey conducted by the Maine Forest Service, residents living along the Route 24 (Bay Road) area from the Village south to the Topsham town line should brace themselves for an “intense” infestation of the browntail moth this summer. This will come as no surprise to those who live along this route as last year was also an intense infestation year. While we may not be able to eradicate the problem, understanding the moth and preparing for the inevitable will help.

According to the Maine Forest Service’s website, the larval stage (caterpillar) of this insect feeds on the foliage of hardwood trees and shrubs including: oak, shadbush, apple, cherry, beach plum, and rugosa rose. Larval feeding causes reduction of growth and occasional mortality of valued trees and shrubs. While feeding damage may cause some concern, the primary human impact from the browntail moth is the result of contact with poisonous hairs found on the caterpillars. Contact of these hairs with human skin causes a rash similar to poison ivy that can be severe on some individuals.



### Description and Life History

The browntail moth produces one generation a year. It has four life stages; egg, larval, pupal, and adult. The larval stage lasts for nine months, from August through June. In the fall, colonies of larvae build nests in trees constructed from a single leaf wrapped tightly with large amounts of white silk. A colony consists

of 25 to 400 or more larvae. The larvae overwinter within webbed nests that are two to four inches long and are situated on branch tips. Fall webworm nests, often confused with the browntail moth winter webs, are loose, further in on the branches and more often found in ash trees than oak or apple. Eastern tent caterpillar tents are found in crotches and forks of apple and cherry tree branches during the spring.

In the spring, as soon as the earliest leaf buds open, the larvae become active and crawl out of their nests to feed on the tender foliage. Once the larvae become active, pruning is too late! They may devour the foliage as fast as it develops. For a time the larvae crawl back into the web at night, but as they become larger they remain out on the leaves. By late June, larvae are full grown. Large larvae, about 1 1/2 inches long, are dark brown and have a broken white stripe on each side of the body and conspicuous, unpaired, reddish spots on the posterior end of the back. These should not be confused with larvae of the eastern tent caterpillar which has a single, solid, white stripe down its back or the gypsy moth which has paired blue and red spots on its back.

### History

The browntail moth was “accidentally” introduced in Somerville, Massachusetts from Europe in 1897. By 1913, the insect had spread to all of the New England states and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Since that time, popula-



tions of this pest slowly decreased due to natural controls until the 1960's, when browntail moth was limited to Cape Cod and a few islands off the Maine coast in Casco Bay.

Fast forward to the 1990's when the browntail moth reached severe infestation levels along the Harpswell area and other coastal towns in the Casco Bay area. According to Charlene Donahue, Forest Entomologist of the Forest Service, once the browntail moth depletes the leaves of a tree in one area they move to the next tree for better feeding ground thus causing the infestation to spread from one area to the next. It may take up to five years for the moths to move their nests from one tree to another hence the infestation from Harpswell to Bowdoinham. Chances are good that this will be a recurring problem for Bowdoinham in the next four to five years or beyond.

### What do we do in the meantime?

Pruning and removing the nests in the winter when the moths are dormant is the best solution especially since spraying along the waterways is prohibited. Once the caterpillars emerge from the nests, the hairs become airborne from either the caterpillars or from the cast skins when the caterpillars molts. The time that humans are most susceptible to reactions from the airborne hairs last for

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## Brown Tail Moth

*Continued from page 8*

weeks in the summer season (from June to mid-July) because the caterpillars molt five times in one season! For those of us who react severely to the hairs, the following precautions are recommended:

- **Avoid places heavily infested by caterpillars.** Campers should plan their stays on un-infested islands.
- **Take a cool shower and change clothes** after any activity that might involve contact with browntail moth hairs.
- **Dry laundry inside** during June and July to avoid having the hairs become impregnated in clothing.
- **Wear respirator, goggles and coveralls** tightly closed at neck, wrists and ankles when performing activities that stir up caterpillar hairs such as:
  - o mowing
  - o raking
  - o weed whacking
  - o removing pupal webbing from eaves and boats.
- **Perform the above tasks on damp days or wet down material** with a hose as moisture helps keep the hairs from becoming airborne there by minimizing contact.
- Use caution cleaning debris left by caterpillars because the **toxin is extremely stable and remains a hazard for a number of years.** Summer residents should bear this in mind when opening cottages that have been closed all winter as the hairs frequently settle over the winter and may be contacted when spring cleaning. Wet mopping prior to vacuuming or dusting is advised.
- **Consult your physician** if you develop a severe reaction to the browntail moth.
- Be aware that the chances of contacting browntail hairs increases during dry windy conditions.

For more information on the browntail moth go to [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov)

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## Maine's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

**Note:** *In November, Bowdoinham voters passed a PACE ordinance giving residents the opportunity to take advantage of this new program offered by Efficiency Maine. The following is a summary of the Program provided by Efficiency Maine.*

**M**aine's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program offers 5, 10 or 15 year loans of between \$6,500 and \$15,000 at a 4.99% fixed interest rate. PACE will be available to homeowners in communities that have passed a PACE Ordinance and are eligible for Efficiency Maine's Home Energy Savings Program (HESP).

HESP offers incentives of up to \$2,000 for pre-approved energy efficiency projects, regardless of income, (up to \$1,500 in rebates from Efficiency Maine and up \$500 from federal tax credits). Eligibility requires participants to conduct a home energy assessment (energy audit) by a Participating Energy Advisor, with a minimum energy savings of 25%. Eligible buildings include homes or 1-4 unit buildings of between 1-3 stories.

As of 12/31/10, HESP has experienced 36% in average annual energy savings, or approximately \$1,000 in total annual savings per homeowner. For more

information on HESP, visit [http://www.energymaine.com/at-home/hesp\\_program](http://www.energymaine.com/at-home/hesp_program) or call 866-376-2463 or email [efficiency-maine@energymaine.com](mailto:efficiency-maine@energymaine.com).

PACE loans include a fixed monthly payment, no pre-payment penalties and no application, origination or closing fees. Maximum loan to value ratio of 100% and maximum debt to income ratio of 45%. Loan to value ratio is the amount of a first mortgage lien as a percentage of the property's total appraised value. Debt to income ratio is the percentage of a consumer's monthly gross income that goes toward paying debts.

The Maine PACE Program is expected to launch on Monday, February 28th. To learn if your town has passed a PACE Ordinance or if you have any questions please contact Efficiency Maine's Dana Fischer at [dana.fischer@energymaine.com](mailto:dana.fischer@energymaine.com).

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## Tax Relief—Property Tax and Rent Refund (Circuitbreaker Program)

**M**any Bowdoinham property owners and renters may be eligible for a refund through the State of Maine's Property Tax and Rent Refund Program. Homeowners or renters may qualify for a refund of up to \$1600 if you meet all of the following:

- Were Maine residents for all 12 months of 2009
- Owned or rented a home in Maine for all 12 months of 2009 and occupied that home for at least 6 months of 2009
- Lived alone and total household income in 2009 was \$64,950 or less; or lived with a spouse or dependent and total household income in 2009 was \$86,600 or less.

- Had a 2009 property tax bill that was more than 4% of total household income; or, paid rent in 2009 that was more than 20% of total household income. Exception: Seniors do not need to meet this requirement when their income is not more than \$14,700 for those living alone or not more than \$18,200 when living with a spouse or dependent.

Applications must be filed by December 31, 2011. Applications are available at town office or online at [www.state.me.us/revenue](http://www.state.me.us/revenue)

## Cultivate the Arts *By Lee Parker*

With spring just around the corner Merrymeeting Arts Center is excited about preparations for the 3rd Annual “Young at Art Exhibit” which opens with a reception on March 25th from 5:30 pm to 7pm. This exhibit for emerging artists—new to their art, their medium or under the age of 18—is sure to delight everyone. Come to the opening reception and meet the artists who will be excited to discuss their art with you.

“MACSloup” is a soup and bread dinner based on an idea that originated in St. Louis. MACSloup supports artistic projects that need a little funding and belief. MAC will hold its first “Sloup” on March 20. Soups and breads will be provided by local establishments, chefs and community members. \$10 per person donation for the dinner entitles you to one vote on the artists’ proposals with 100% of the donations going directly to the winning proposal.

Merrymeeting Arts Center has begun offering theater classes for children taught by Brooke Thompson. “Silly Salamanders”, ages 2–5, offers a special opportunity for pretending, experiencing getting into character, learning to share the spotlight, using costumes to create characters and working together to create a story. “Tricky Turtles”, ages 6–9, introduces theater terms and history, proper use of voice and breathing, centering and body placement on stage, creating characters, plots and settings, and working together to create a performance. For information



on the classes please go to [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org).

MAC is very excited to introduce our newest project - Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble. ZTE is a critically acclaimed theater group whose goal is to explore world myths, cultures and rituals through a dramatic medium, using the diverse talents of its performing artists. Elements of dance, drama, music, masks and movement are intertwined in their productions. Dana and Stephen Legawiec chose Bowdoinham as their new home after reading about us in Down East Magazine and coming to Celebrate Bowdoinham last September. They are busy getting to know their new community and Merrymeeting Arts Center is helping to “transplant” their theater ensemble into Bowdoinham. Fafalo!, a theatrical comedy performed in masks, will open this summer at the Town Hall. Watch for “Meet The Masks” events over the next few months.

## Merrymeeting Arts Center Calendar for March through May

**March 3–May 19:** Theater classes: Silly Salamanders (24 year olds) 9:30–10:30; Tricky Turtles (5–8 year olds, 3:30–4:30)

**March 20:** “MACSloup” 2–4 pm, location to be announced

**March 25:** Young at Art Exhibit: Opening Reception 5:30–7 pm

**March 26–April 30:** Young at Art Exhibit, Center open Saturdays, 10–1

**May ? (Plant Sale):** Cultivate the Arts/Meet the Masks

**May 20:** Members Exhibit; Opening Reception 5:30–7 pm

**May 21–July 2:** Members Exhibit, Center open, Saturdays, 10–1

**June 25:** Meet the Masks (event to be announced)

## MBBA Annual Meeting & Dinner 3-3-2011

**The Old Goat Function Room, Main St., Richmond**

5-6 p.m. Social Hour & Networking Hors D’ouvres, Cash Bar  
6-8 p.m. Buffet Dinner Catered by Simply Susie’s Catering

### Business Meeting & Presentation

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Alan Caron, Envision Maine, Author of the report “Reinventing Maine Government”

Cost: \$15 per person

RSVP Required By 02/23/2011

To: Angela Chute – [achute@downeastinsurance.com](mailto:achute@downeastinsurance.com)

\*\* “Morning Chamber” events at the Bowdoinham town office the first Thurs. of the month from 7:30–9 am for the months of February through July, which include networking and will feature various speakers on business-related topics.\*\*



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## Bowdoinham's Best Photo Contest

What do you think is the best part of Bowdoinham? Submit your photograph(s) that shows what makes Bowdoinham special.

It's easy....go to our website at [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) to fill out the online form and upload your photograph(s). If you do not have online access, you can come into the Town Office to fill out the entry form and submit your photographs. Photographs will be accepted from March 1st to March 22nd.

Once all the photos have been submitted and uploaded on our website, it is then time for you to vote for your favorite photograph! There will be two

phases of voting: first to determine the final fifteen and second to determine the final winner.

The voting period for the final fifteen photographs will be from March 25th to April 8th. The fifteen photographs selected as finalists will be used in this year's Annual Report.

Voting for Bowdoinham's Best Photo will be from April 9th to April 29th. The winning photograph will be shown on the cover of this year's Annual Report.

We are excited to see your photographs of Bowdoinham. For more information please contact Darren Carey at 666-5531 or [dcary@bowdoinham.com](mailto:dcary@bowdoinham.com)



2010 Photo contest photos by Tony Cox. Top: Smelting Village—Bowdoinham's own Business Park, Middle Left: Lola the town cat at the Library's Annual Plant Sale, Middle Right: Winter Wonderland in Bowdoinham, Left: Opening Day at the Farmers Market—Yummy!!!, and at Right: The Abby River—The Natural Beauty of Bowdoinham.

## Bowdoinham Historical Society

Is looking for: Photos, Artifacts, Memories, and Information on:

- **The Ski Slope on Bay Road opposite Steen's**
- **Christopher Sheep Farms and Yarn**
- **Maxwell's Greenhouse**
- **The Harward ship William and Mary.** "Launched in the fall of 1852, the ship grounded and sank on its maiden westbound voyage in May 1853. My study includes the construction of the ship by the Harwards, its placement in packet service, the facts concerning its loss to the sea, and to a very large extent, what we know of the passengers and crew. My inquiry to the historical society at the moment is limited to Harwards (family and home) and the ship's construction."
- **Bowdoinham business materials,** advertising calendars, items, etc.
- **One room school equipment/materials,** such as desks, for Jellerson
- **A copy of the Bowdoinham Town Report** for the year ending 2/10/1912 **and any from before that date**
- **Any Bowdoinham-related Materials or Memories**

Call or e-mail **Betsy Steen** 666-3468 [bayviewess@comcast.net](mailto:bayviewess@comcast.net)

See **Kate Cutko** at the library or contact us on **The Bowdoinham Historical Society** website:

<http://www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org>



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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## Community Calendar

### MARCH

14

Baseball/Softball/T ball Registrations  
Due

26

Baked Bean & Casserole Supper 4-6 pm  
Fire Station

28

Plant Sale Planning Meeting—Library

### APRIL

1

Ferrier Scholarship Deadline

9

Spring Breakfast at Bowdoinham  
Community School

15

Property Taxes Due—2nd half

16

Earth Day Roadside Cleanup—Meet at  
Gazebo at 9 am  
(Snow/Rain date April 23)

25

Friends of the Library Meeting

30

Baked Bean & Casserole Supper 4–6 pm  
Fire Station

### MAY

21

Annual Library Plant Sale at Town Hall  
9 am to 4 pm

21

Farmer's Market Opening Day  
8:30–12:30 pm at the Grange

27

11th Annual Giant Rummage Early Bird  
Sale to benefit Bowdoinham Community  
School 5–7pm at Town Hall—  
\$1 donation for entry

28

11th Annual Giant Rummage Sale to  
benefit the Bowdoinham Community  
School 9–3 at Town Hall

Town of Bowdoinham  
13 School Street  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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