



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 16, Issue 2

www.bowdoinham.com

March-April 2018

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Books, Film and Photography

By Wendy Rose

Melissa Gebert Photography

Melissa Gebert

It was her love of horses that got Melissa Gebert started with photography. A book she received when she was 11 about photographing horses encouraged her to experiment with documenting her horse riding activities. By the age of 13, she was getting comfortable with her Canon camera and was learning all the mechanics of settings, speeds, and framing.

Taking pictures of her friends with their horses has now evolved into a part-time, full-service business for Melissa. She offers wedding packages, engagement, senior and family portraits, and is an expert photographer of horses and pets.

Her wedding photography has expanded each year, and she already has seven weddings booked for this year. "Photographing a wedding is a big responsibility," she says. "I love making it a good experience for my customers." She enjoys taking the formal "set"



pictures, but also loves capturing the casual, informal moments. Her long experience with her camera enables her to grab those moments when they happen.

"Using the camera is like a second language—it's almost second nature," she says.

The biggest challenge for Melissa is juggling her full-time job while fitting in her photography business and horse riding activities. Fortunately, the marketing responsibilities on her job have helped her to understand ways to market her business. By going to networking events and getting to know other wedding vendors, Melissa has met people in the industry. Her growing contacts enabled her to double her business last year.

"My goal is to be patient and to grow the business slowly," Melissa says. She likes to take the time to get to know each person. Melissa would like to expand each year until she can bring on a second "shooter" to help with wedding

events and then eventually to work at the business on a full-time basis.

"I feel lucky to be in Bowdoinham," she says. "I like the way it's heading and how much farming and artistic activity there is." She feels that living in Bowdoinham is providing a great foundation for her growing venture.

You can contact Melissa through her website (www.melissagebert.com) or email her at hello@melissagebert.com.

MI Media

Mark Ireland

During the 15 years that Mark Ireland worked for what is now Maine Public Broadcasting, he learned the key aspects of film and video production that have been essential to creating a successful business. He did studio and field filming, directing, producing, editing, and served as an executive producer for the very popular, "Made in Maine" series.

"Made in Maine" not only gave him good training in production techniques, it also gave him broad access to successful businesses across the State of Maine. Mark was able to see firsthand what steps businesses had gone through to get underway, how they expanded, and what

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Business Spotlight

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it took to succeed. All of this became very useful as he started his own business.

Since starting his business, Mark has worked on a wide array of projects that have included short pieces for Maine Public as well as longer films featuring community conservation projects such as land trusts. One current project that has been several years in the making is a 4 part series on Merrymeeting Bay. It aims to tell the story of the Bay—its rich history, diverse natural habitat, and economic contributions. Mark especially enjoys doing films that showcase conservation efforts. “The pieces on land trusts are really stories about the whole community,” he says.

Mark noted that there are both challenges and benefits to running a business. The joy comes when he has community screenings where he hears comments from the public. The conversations and questions that emerge give him helpful feedback. On the other hand, being his own production company means that Mark has to do everything—generating the ideas for projects, finding funding sources, keeping up with new technology and equipment, and creating public interest in the final product.

A particular challenge he mentioned is the danger of becoming isolated from his peers. Mark addressed this challenge by forming The Maine Film Association where he served on the board for seven years. This group helps its members to learn technical information such as legal property rights, and gives them opportunities to screen their current work. “Maine has many filmmakers who do it all on their own so it is helpful to network when we can,” he says.

Mark has found many innovative ways to get his work before the public eye. Facebook has been an especially helpful channel. He also posts videos on YouTube using Vimeo. His webpage, <http://www.mimediaine.com>

www.mimediaine.com is an especially helpful tool for showcasing his projects.

When it comes to the business side of his work, Mark has gotten great help from local organizations such as SCORE and Coastal Enterprises, Inc. While he has a professional do his tax preparation, he



Mark Ireland

handles all the bookkeeping aspects of the business himself. “I have been very fortunate. I have never gone over budget, and all my customers have paid,” he says.

As



Todd Woofenden

Mark looks toward the future, he is excited about the possibility of doing

more conservation projects He would also like to explore using videos to document family milestones, town history projects, and to sell DVD's. He enjoys involving his customers in each project at whatever level they wish. “I like to give the client a chance to be a part of producing the work and to look at the footage before editing. I find they really enjoy the process,” he says. “The collaborative nature

and amount of fun involved has been a surprise for some customers. My goal is to have them be happy with the product and to have fun with the process.”

You can reach Mark by calling his cell phone at 837-7220 or emailing him at mimediaine@gmail.com.

Signal Light Books

Todd Woofenden

“I have always wanted to write,” Todd

Woofenden says. He started writing stories at a young age and finds time to write most days. Writing combines his love of history, story-telling, and character development and is a natural outgrowth of his book-oriented upbringing. His father worked as a copy editor at the New York Times, and

other members of the family are excellent editors and reviewers.

Todd found the perfect story to write about when he inherited his great-uncle's archive from World War I. This relative-naval officer George S. Dole from western Maine--served on one of the first ships that hunted the early versions of German submarines during WWI. He was an

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excellent amateur photographer and took vast numbers of photos during his worldwide travels. All of this material formed the core of Todd's book, *Hunters of the Steel Sharks* which Todd published in 2006. His work on the book also led to creating the website, www.subchaser.org where people interested in this topic can learn more.

Todd's efforts to find an agent or a publisher for his book taught him how difficult it is to get a book published. He finally decided to create his own publishing company and to go the self-publishing route. Footing all the up-front costs himself, he was able to publish *Hunters of the Steel Sharks* and sell it from his home and website. At this point, sales from the book have covered his initial costs, and it is now generating a profit.

With his next effort, a series of fiction books, Todd found a better self-publishing solution. It is called "Create Space" and is hosted by Amazon. Once an author finalizes a book and publishes it through Create Space, customers can order the book through Amazon and it is printed on demand. The quality of the final product has been improving, and Todd is happy with this avenue for getting his books to market.

Three fiction books in Todd's "Gunners" series are now completed with two available through Amazon and the third coming out later this year. The story falls into the adventure/suspense/action genre and includes two stories taking place in the present and the future with developing revelations about the links between them. Todd has almost completed work on a fourth book in the series and has an

idea for a fifth related book. "I love to write the stories and see them come to completion," he says.

The practicality of publishing his own work means that Todd has to handle all the business aspects on his own without the help of a publishing house. He pays a copy editor to lay out and polish the work, has readers (including 2 sisters) to help go over the writing, overseas the cover art (his nephew helps), and handles all the marketing and finances. He will be ramping up his marketing activities once the third book becomes available so that he can promote the whole series. At this point, Todd's full-time job subsidizes his endeavors, but he would love to be able to write and publish full-time. "Maybe in my retirement," he laughingly says.

As a self-published author, Todd has become aware of all the local writers that are doing excellent work but are not part of the usual publishing machine. He hopes that people will make an effort to ask their librarians or booksellers about local authors and sample some of the good work that is being done.

The best way to reach Todd is through email at todd@signallightbooks.com. His website (www.signallightbooks.com) has great information about his endeavors.

Note: Todd's fiction books include *Gunners of the White Cliffs*, *Trail of the Gunners*, and *Gunner's Blade*.

Proposed Amendments- Land Use Ordinance

By Nicole Briand

The Planning Board will be holding their final Public Hearings on the proposed amendments to the Land Use Ordinance on:

April 12th, 6:30pm
Kendall Meeting Room, 13 School St

The proposed amendments address recreational marijuana uses in Bowdoinham. Recreational marijuana establishments (retail marijuana store, retail marijuana cultivation facility, retail marijuana products manufacturing facility and retail marijuana testing facility) would be permitted with a Site Plan Review permit. These uses would have to meet the following standards, in addition, to the general performance standards listed in the Land Use Ordinance:

1. The establishment shall have and implement an odor management and remediation plan to ensure that no undue odors impact neighbors or the public.
2. Buffering or other measures may be required to address the establishment's impact on abutters and the public.
3. All marijuana and marijuana products shall be in a secured facility.
4. The establishment may not be located within 1,000ft of a school or church.

For more information, please contact Nicole Briand, Director of Planning & Development at nbriand@bowdoinham.com or 666-5531.

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

News from ACOA

By *Patty Melander & Rachelle Tome*

The Advisory Committee on Aging support's our town's efforts in developing an Age Friendly Bowdoinham. We are fortunate to work with over 50 volunteers and many local partners to coordinate activities designed to provide services and advocacy designed to enable our residents to live in their homes for as long as possible as well as provide programs geared to keeping older adults active and engaged in the community. There are many regular monthly activities available. Please check the links at the end of this article for more information.

ACOA members recently had the honor of interviewing Beverly and Rodney Chute, who spent many years supporting area residents by providing monthly meals for seniors. When they first stepped into the Town Office, it was easy to see what an amazing couple they were. At 86 and married for 66 years, they have a glow that lights up the room.

Beverly and Rodney were both born in Maine: Beverly in St. Albans and Rodney in Smyrna. At age 7, Rodney's family moved to St. Albans. When he was in the 7th grade, Rodney proposed to Beverly. After high school graduation they married. They moved to Connecticut, where they lived for 31 years and raised

three wonderful children. Also during this time, Beverly and Rodney were very active in their church. Rodney also spent 16 years as a Sea Scout leader. During this time, he developed a love for cooking from his father, who had cooked for the lumbermen of the American Thread company. In 1987, when Rodney was offered a chance for early retirement he said to Beverly, "Get ready, we're moving back to Maine." They settled in Bowdoin on a large tract of land; large enough for all their children to build houses on the site. Beverly was always there, providing guidance, taking care of the children and assisting with church activities.

The couple joined the Second Baptist Church in Bowdoinham. In 2011 the church asked if Rodney would consider cooking for a Senior Luncheon, held the third Thursday of each month. The town and church provided the supplies, Rodney and crew, Beverly, Henry Haley, and George and Judy Hardin, brought the meal together. The luncheon group started small, about 7, and gradually grew to an average of 35 attendees. The luncheon not only provided a delicious meal provided by Rodney and crew, but also an op-

portunity to hear guest speakers, and to participate in games or other activities. It was fun to get together.

Rodney and Beverly retired from providing church luncheons in 2017. Don't think Rodney retired from everything! He continues to provide bread for the luncheons now held on Thursdays at the Bowdoinham Fire Department. Sourdough, molasses, Italian breads or roll are favorites. Rodney also continues to share his cooking talents with a Men's Breakfast at the Second Baptist Church, serving lunch for up to 20 men each Saturday.

The ACOA extends our thanks to Beverly and Rodney Chute for being such an inspiration to the people of Bowdoinham. Both are town treasures who consistently provide a positive example for the rest of us.

For more information about upcoming events follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AgeFriendlyBowdoinham/>. You can also call Missy at the Town Office to be added to our mailing list: 207-666-5531. If you are interested in the Committee's work, please consider attending our monthly meeting. Meeting details as well as a hard copy calendar of the many activities offered each month are available at the Town Landing, Bowdoinham Public Library, and at the Town Office.



Beverly and Rodney Chute

Perry's Garden

We are still taking applications for the 2018 season! Come join your neighbors and grow your own food this year in Bowdoinham's new community garden, located on Sadie Lane (behind the Farm Cart). Plots are \$25 for a 10'x25' space. Compost, water, tools and expert gardening advice available! Organic and conventional gardeners welcome.

Contact Lily Montgomery for more information at lilypmontgomery@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

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Recreation News

By Lisa West

With spring just around the corner, there's a lot happening!

Adult Pickleball continues on Mondays thru March at Bowdoinham Community Gym 5:30-7:15pm. Visit "Bowdoinham Pickleball" Facebook page for more information.

Women's Volleyball is on Wednesdays at 7pm at Williams-Cone School. No volleyball experience required!

Co-ed Adult Volleyball at Cathance Fitness Center on Wednesdays 7-9pm. You don't have to be a member to play!

Adult Basketball: This has moved to TUESDAYS 7-9pm at the Cathance Fitness Center. You don't have to be a member to play!

Walking Group at the Bowdoinham Community School is back on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 4-7pm, except on non-school days. Please come in the door to the furthest left of the school (next to gym) and sign in at the desk on the right (green notebook). Take a right up the stairs to walk all the way to the office/main entrance, turn around and head back, you may circle the gym and start over.

Soccer Tennis: Registration now available for 6-8th graders within our district,

February to June. Form available in Bowdoinham, Bowdoin & Middle school as well as Bowdoinham town office & <http://www.bowdoinham.com/recreation>.

Baseball/Softball Season: Baseball assessments are scheduled at the Bowdoinham Community School Gym for Friday March 23rd or 30th. Softball is pending. Registration forms are available at the Schools, Town Offices, and on the Town's website.

Sponsorships and Home Run Fence Banners: Our youth sports program is again offering advertising opportunities. If you are interested in sponsoring a team or flying your banner this year, our baseball/softball community greatly appreciates the continuous support.

Community Swim is on Sundays, March 4, 11 and 25th at Bowdoin College's pool, 4:30-5:30pm FREE to residents of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell & Topsham. Non-residents \$2 per visit.

Earth Day: Along with the Boy Scouts, the Recreation Dept will again hold our Road Side Clean Up on Earth Day Saturday, April 21st. Thank you Heather Jackson and Athena Mann for heading up this community event. Bowdoinham residents please meet at the Gazebo between 8:30-9am to pick up trash bags, gloves, & route suggestions.

Ferrier Scholarship: Applications for

our Bowdoinham teen residents located in the town office, library and www.bowdoinham.com/recreation. This opportunity offers assistance to Bowdoinham residents between 13-18yrs (as of April 1, 2018) to pursue programs of their choice.

Lost Valley Ski/Snowboard Program: We had 49 participants this season, 3rd graders to adults!

Introduction to Canoe Skills & Maine Fall Foliage Canoe Tours: Bowdoinham Recreation & L.L.Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools have come together again to bring classes to our Mailyly Waterfront Park! Please visit www.llbean.com for more information and to register for one of their Discovery Courses.

Are you interested in a new program!?! Volunteers Always Needed. Let's Consider:

1. Walking/Running Group for 2nd-5th grade;
2. Youth Tennis program;
3. Volleyball Youth, Middle School or High School Age
4. Celebrate Bowdoinham kayak/canoe race;
5. Snack Shack time; Softball/Baseball field maintenance.

For more information, please contact Lisa West, Recreation Director at 666-3504 or LWest@Bowdoinham.com.

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Guild of Artisans - Call for Members

By Lynn Sternfels

The Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans was started in 2004 by five local artists who were looking for a way to provide a resource to each other and a venue for promoting their art. Over the years, the Guild has grown and this diversified group represents a wide range of artistic endeavors including painting, fine arts photography, fiber arts, woodworking, ceramics and jewelry.

The Guild has sponsored an annual Holiday Show at the Town Hall for twelve years and has taken part in Celebrate Bowdoinham, Bowdoinham Studio Day, and the Farm and Artist Trail. For the past two years, Guild members have had their own fall show at the Merrymeeting Art Gallery. The Guild has offered scholarships to students and occasionally included a student artist for their holiday show.

The Guild is looking to increase their membership. Priority will be given to artists who reside in Bowdoinham and who are over twenty-one years of age. Those interested and/or if you have questions, please contact Lynn Sternfels at lcsternfels@yahoo.com. Please provide a short statement about your art and interest in the Guild as well as several digital images of your work no later than April 1st. Work will be juried at a meeting on April 30th.

Library Mission

By Kate Cutko

One sign of a strong organization is its ability to stay current, to keep up with the ever-changing world, while remaining true to its mission. The staff and the Board of the Bowdoinham Public Library took time recently to revisit and revise the library's mission statement. "The Bowdoinham Public Library provides free and open access to informational, educational, and literary resources, promotes life-long learning, and connects our community." May that mission continue to guide our work. If you have questions about our services or our mission, please come in and ask. We welcome anyone interested in the library to attend any of our quarterly meetings.

Did you know that you can support the library anytime you shop at Amazon? Amazon will donate a small percentage of your payment each time you make a purchase. Establish the Bowdoinham Public Library as your chosen non-profit and we will automatically receive funds direct from Amazon. To be guided through the easy set-up, go to www.smile.amazon.com and return to that site each time you shop. Same prices, same products, same service. The library has received \$300 just since November 2017 through this easy-to-use shopping site. Thank you to all of our supporters who have helped support us this way.

Join us Friday evening, April 6th for the 3rd Annual Edible Book Contest! No, we aren't nibbling novels or chewing

chapters, we are creating food that looks like (or is inspired by) actual books. For two years you all have amazed us with your entries- cakes made to look like your favorite picture book covers, cakes interpreting titles and foods of all types making cute, foodie puns. Past years have seen platters of Velveeta, shaped like the Velvateen Rabbit, shortbread cookies looking like the Hundred Acre Wood, cakes with a spouting whale from Mr. McGee, and new classics like "The Count of Monte Crisco", "Grape Expectations", and "BanAnna Karenina". How about "One Flew over the Cous Cous Nest"? This year is bound to have some corkers. Call the library to get all the details about entering. We gather to vote and admire, and then we all help clean up by eating all the entries. We've moved to the Town Hall this year to accommodate bigger crowds and more entries. You won't want to miss it. Judging begins at 6pm, and eating begins at ... sometime after 6.

Follow us on Facebook for all the latest events and up to date news of the library.

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News for Arts Center

By Lee Parker

Exhibits in the MAC Gallery

(Grey building at 9 Main Street)

Ice & Smelt - Past and Present

The exhibit featured many of the wonderful photos submitted by community members on Facebook, along with fascinating historical photographs, maps, and artifacts. Brendan Bullock collaborated with Betsy Steen (Bowdoinham Historical Society) to mount this wonderful exhibit which is open on Saturdays from 10am-1pm through March 2.

Vernal Pools & Ribbon Snakes

The Merrymeeting Arts Center has issued a Call for Art for its April 2018 "Vernal Pools & Ribbons Snakes." Artists 18 and under are encouraged to submit original art in any medium. Each year our April "vernal pools" show focuses on a plant or an animal that is part of this unique springtime Maine woods habitat. This year's focus is ribbon snakes, a vernal pool denizen with three distinctive stripes.

Two and three dimensional works of all sizes about ribbon snakes and their habitat can be submitted. Every piece of art should have the artist's name, medium/media, title, price or NFS (not for sale) clearly written on the underside or back. If the artwork sells, the artists will receive 70% of the sale price.

The show will open with a reception on Friday, April 6th from 5-7pm and will run to Saturday, May 19th. The gallery will be open Saturdays 10-1 during that time. Artwork may be brought to the Merrymeeting Arts Center on Sunday, April 1st from 2-4pm or on Monday, April 2nd from 4-6 pm and picked up on Sunday, May 20th from 1-4pm.

To make other arrangements or for questions please call Peggy Muir (207-504-1132).



Art For Everyone

Education in the MAC Arts Studio

(Green Building at 6 Main Street)

Lots happening in the MAC Arts Studio under the leadership of Melissa Fiori. Join us for an Open Jam session with Justin Schlawin and Rebecca Conley on March 8th at 7:30 PM. Community Event Knitting and Handwork Circle meets monthly (times vary so check the schedule). Open Studio on Saturday March 17th and April 14th from 10-12:30 features pottery with Dana Pratt. Watch for an adult Mixed Media workshop in March.

Classes

CONTINUING Classes with Susan Mendes-Brown on Saturday mornings from 9-9:45 AM, music for preschoolers and their parents. A fun class filled with movement, music and stories.

NEW 4-week session begins March 14th. Classes are held Wednesday mornings from 10-10:45 AM for artists 0-5 and their caregivers with Jennifer Stonebraker.

NEW Teen class with Jennifer Stonebraker starts Wednesday March 14 from 3-4:30 PM and runs for 6 weeks. MSAD 75 will provide transportation from the Middle and High School to the studio (drop off at Town Landing). Parents will need to pick up. Pre-Registration is required. Teens you will have the unique opportunity to explore media and processes at your own pace in a supportive and experiential environment. Create your own graffiti stencil, try your hand at printmaking, screen print an article of clothing using your very own design, dabble in jewelry making, and much more!

Please continue to check our FB page (Merrymeeting Arts Studio) for updates, schedules, and cancellations. Contact

info-merrymeetingartstudio@gmail.com to register for classes or for additional information.

Events at MAC

Ice & Smelt Festival 2018

Our 7th Annual Ice & Smelt Festival coordinated by Susan Mendes-Brown - with the help of many wonderful volunteers - was a huge success. Highlights of the day included "Coyote and the Boy Ben Puppet Show" with Conservation Biologist Geri Vistein followed by lunch catered by Town Landing. Art activities at the MAC Arts Studio offered puppet making of both smelts and coyotes. Outside the studio ice sculptures were being built from frozen shapes - some colored which made for a fun effect.

The Homebrewers of Greater Bangor held a brew competition offering six beers brewed by their members to be tasted by those in attendance. Live jazz music by the group Cantitia and plenty of food by locals accompanied the tasting. "Winter Stories" told by Bowdoinham residents, organized by Hannah Burroughs and videotaped by Jeff Fischer closed out the day's event.

Special thanks to the Town of Bowdoinham and local businesses Steve Leighton for donating a smelt shack rental for a raffle and Jim McPherson for donating the use of a smelt shack during the day for people to try their hand at fishing, to Chas Gill for the live smelt display and large block of ice to round out our celebration of ice and smelt and to Earl Bigelow of letting us rent space at Water-song Studio.

Bowdoinham Food Pantry

By Linda Jariz

This winter has been a tough one, particularly as temperatures have been extremely cold for longer periods of time than usual. This cold weather can put additional strain on already pressured household budgets. Bowdoinham donors have been very generous this year so there is no need for anyone to go hungry. The Food Pantry can help by providing food so that your money can be used to cover other expenses. If you or anyone you know is in need, we are open every Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm (if school is canceled then the Food pantry will be closed as well). We also monitor our voice mail routinely so if you find yourself in emergency need, call us. We can help. The Bowdoinham Food Pantry is an open and welcoming place with no income verification required.



The number of customers utilizing the food pantry has remained relatively consistent. For the year ending in December 2017, on average, about 20 households participated each month. More detailed statistics can be found on our website at <http://bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org/statistics/>

We thank all of the people who donate goods, money and their time, allowing the Food Pantry to be in operation for its 5th year!

Contact BHS

Mail: PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email:

info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Website:

www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

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

Historical Society News

By Betsey Steen

Our 2018 Theme is 'Bowdoinham Fires, and the Men, Women, and Equipment that Fight Them'

We are looking for anything fire related: information, photos, posters, artifacts/equipment. We would love to add your knowledge and memories to our history of everything related to Bowdoinham fires and firefighting and to borrow anything you can loan us for the summer display in the Meeting House.

We are looking for pictures and information about fire equipment, especially in the 20th and 21st centuries. Also photos of the firemen and women, fire chiefs, fire stations: (Spring Street, Main Street, and the present Fire Station on Post Road – particularly construction photos.) Please look in your garages and attics, and check your photographs– old and new.

HELP!! A Mystery! We have seen written and been told more than once that Bowdoinham had a third fire hand tub, which is in a Richmond barn. I can't remember my sources. I think the hand tub's name began with 'C' or 'E'. Pass the Word! Please contact Betsy, Tom Deforest or BHS if you know more of this. It would be nice to solve this mystery in 2018!

2018 Programs

- Great Fires of Bowdoinham (1902, 1904): Sunday, March 4, at 2:00 Frank Connors will speak and share pictures. Kendall Room, Coombs Municipal Building.

- Rick Ellis will show pictures and tell us the fascinating story of the 2009-2012 Restoration of Bowdoinham's 1859 Hand Tub Water Witch, probably in October. Exact Time and place to be announced.

- Open Farm Day in July: "Bowdoinham's Fires and the Men, Women, and Equipment that Fought Them" Display in the BHS Meeting House: To include: His-

tory of Fire Departments in Bowdoinham; Bowdoinham's Fire Chiefs, History of Bowdoinham's Fire Equipment; Timeline of the known fires in Bowdoinham.

- Another possible program is A Story Telling featuring stories about Bowdoinham's Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Auxiliary, and anything else related to our Fire in Bowdoinham theme.

- We would also like to have something relating to the ongoing research and restoration of our 1798 Hand Tub Phenix by Paul Baines with help from Tom DeForest and Dave Piccuito and other interested citizens. It is estimated that this restoration will take 2 years.

Grange Hall (Merrymeeting Center)

BHS continues to wait while the lawyers slowly grind out a proper deed. We continue to be excited about this wonderful building and are confident that come spring, we will own it. Then we can all begin in earnest to transform it into a Center for Bowdoinham.

PLEASE!

Don't let your ancestors and family slip into oblivion! It is heartbreaking to find or receive a packet of photos and beautiful portraits of people of the last 200 years, and yet be unable to identify any of them. How valuable it would be to be able to match photos to people whose stories we know!! ID and date your photos, old and new.

We are in the BHS Room on the 3rd floor of the Coombs Municipal Building on Tuesdays 10-12 and 2-5. Bring things by or share memories. Or email bayview-ess@comcast.net. Volunteers to help with this and other projects are very welcome!

Former Students Giving Back

By Chris Lajoie, Principal

There is a tradition of former Bowdoinham Community School students returning to give back. Again this year we are lucky to have some of Bowdoinham's best working with our students. They include:

* Nick Merrill, Mt. Ararat High School senior, started a Math Club as part of his Capstone Project for graduation. Twenty students in fourth and fifth grade have been solving math problems and sharpening their conceptual understanding every Monday after school as part of the group. The Team will compete in a Math Meet here at the school on March 13th.

* Another Mt. Ararat senior, Kate Graeff, has created an extra opportunity for our students in the performing arts. She is leading a fourth and fifth grade choir before school for her Capstone Project. The choir is learning two selected pieces for a school performance in early April.

* Speaking of the performing arts, Mt. Ararat tenth grader, Bella Shannon, is again serving as assistant director for our school play, A Midsummer Night's Dance Party. Bella is helping director/producer

Dana Wieluns-Legawiec on all aspects of the project, which will run shows on April 6th and 7th at the school.

* Mt. Ararat graduate, Katie Ruby, has been a regular Lunch Bunch reader at our school. The program, which is coordinated by friend of the school Fred Cheney and our Title I teacher Leah Hayes, features community volunteers like Katie reading high-quality picture books to our students during lunch time.

* If you visited our Craft Fair in December you would have seen Mt. Ararat ninth grader, Camila Ciembroniewicz, entertaining us with her fiddle!

* And Mt. Ararat Middle School eighth grader, Cody Bowker, spends part of Tuesday afternoons mentoring some of our youngest students. He is a helpful positive role model for some of our boys, especially.

We appreciate these outstanding young men and women giving back to their community school this year. We hope it is a tradition that continues well into the future!

Kayak/Canoe Racks!

By Jan Marks

It's never too soon to think about summer! A group formed as a result of the BCDI meetings this past fall, to create a plan to make canoe and kayak storage racks available at Maily Waterfront Park for the upcoming boating season.

We are proposing, the racks be available for the boating season (exact dates to be determined) for a fee of \$30.00/season, the same as the current mooring fee.

To give us an idea of how many spaces we'll need, anyone interested in renting a space to store their canoe or kayak (maximum length 18 feet) at the waterfront park, should contact Jan Marks at 949-6510 or janmarks@gmail.com by April 1st. See you on the water!

Assessor's Notice

By Darren Carey

If you own a business in Bowdoinham, you must declare your personal property to the assessor by May 1st. The business may qualify for the BETR (Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement) or BETE (Business Equipment Tax Exemption) programs.

Assessor's Notice - April 1, 2018
Effective Tax Year 7/1/2018-6/30/2019
36 MRSA Sec. 706: TAXPAYERS TO LIST PROPERTY, NOTICE, PENALTY, VERIFICATION. Before making an assessment, the Assessor shall give seasonable notice in writing to all persons liable to taxation, of which they were in possession of the first day of April of the same year. If any person after such notice does not furnish such list, that person is barred of the right to make application to the assessor of any appeal from any abatement of taxes, unless the taxpayer furnishes the required list with the application and satisfies the assessor that the list could not be provided at the appointed date and time. Deadline to furnish list is May 1, 2018.

18th ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Believe it or not, it's that time again to donate and shop the Rummage Sale! Thank you to all of those who have donated to make our rummage sale very successful yearly! We love the variety of items of that come but as a reminder we do not accept TVs, or Large appliances. Our Sale will be Friday, April 27th from 5pm-7pm \$1 entry fee (no early birds), Saturday, April 28th 9am-noon. Our donation times will be by appointment, as well as April 23rd - 26th from 4pm-6pm. All proceeds benefit the school's field trips and additional learning opportunities throughout the year. FMI or to set up an appointment please call Jessica at 504-7103.

Bowdoinham Parent Partnership

The Bowdoinham Parent Partnership was selected as the March non-profit organization by the Topsham Hannaford. As such, we will be receiving \$1 for every reusable "cause" bag that they sell during the month of March. So if you shop at Topsham Hannaford and need reusable bags, then purchase them in March and it will benefit the school parent group. Funds raised are used for school programs and projects such as purchasing new playground equipment, helping to fund field trips, arts programs, new library books and supplies, and so forth.

CodeRED

By Sarah J. Bennett, Director

The Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA), in partnership with the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office and the Sagadahoc County Communications Center, utilizes an emergency notification system to ensure individuals who live and work in Sagadahoc County are made aware of critical emergency information within a moment's notice. Subscribers of this notification system, called CodeRED, receive information or special instructions on their cell phones, landlines, and/or e-mail inboxes that serve to equip residents with the knowledge they need to keep themselves and their families, friends and neighbors safe before, during or after incidents in and around their community.

CodeRED is an incredibly useful tool

that the County and its municipalities can utilize to avoid or mitigate the impact of a major event that can impact residents and business owners. In order for CodeRED to work effectively, we are asking individuals, households and businesses to subscribe to this service so that they may receive time-sensitive emergency information. Notifications may include urgent hazardous weather information, evacuation notices, boil water advisories, missing persons or AMBER alerts, to name a few.

While most landline residential and business phone numbers have been automatically included in the CodeRED database, cell phones, text messaging, email and TTY must be added via a sign-up process. No resident should assume their information has been automatically entered into the CodeRED system. This is why we urge individuals to register their information directly into the CodeRED

system by visiting the Sagadahoc County EMA page of the County of Sagadahoc website, at <http://sagcounty.com/departments/ema/emergency-notification/>, or the Sagadahoc County EMA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SagadahocCountyEMA/> where they can register online. If unable to register online, individuals can call an Emergency Management specialist at (207) 443-8210 or walk-in to sign-up at the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency at 752 High Street, Bath, ME 04530. All information is kept confidential and will not be shared. Individuals may opt out at any time by contacting the SCEMA office.

For more information, please contact the Sagadahoc County EMA Director, Sarah Bennett or Deputy Director, Matthew Fournier at (207) 443-8210.

Business Workshops

By Nicole Briand

As part of our efforts to promote local businesses and entrepreneurship, we are offering the following workshops for Bowdoinham residents and businesses.

The Financials:

Getting those Pesky Numbers in Line
Thursday, March 22nd, 3-5pm

We'll take the mystery out of the various financial forms that entrepreneurs need to create and keep track of. They all flow into each other! The bookkeeping system leads into the Profit and Loss Statement, the Cash Flow, and the Balance Sheet. By understanding the language of these forms, entrepreneurs can see clearly how well their business is doing. We'll also spend some time looking at the Schedule C and other tax forms that a business needs to file at tax time. They become much easier to do when you see how it all fits together. Being able to document and "read" the numbers gives

entrepreneurs the power to make good decisions for their business.

Business Plan:

The Entrepreneur's Best Friend
Thursday, April 19th,
6-8pm

In this workshop, the entrepreneur will find out what lenders and business counselors want to see in a Business Plan. I'll de-mystify all the elements and help you get started on some of the paragraphs. We'll even look at those sometimes scary financial forms and learn what they are really asking for. Since the pricing and breakeven analysis can be such a stumbling block, I'll walk through the steps for this section using a special worksheet. At the end, we'll cover some helpful business resources that are available—often for free. It will become very clear that the person who benefits most from the Business Plan is you—the entrepreneur.



Once again, the workshop instructor will be Wendy Rose, who worked as a small business counselor and trainer for Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community for over 25 years. In this work, she helped new and existing business owners write business plans, develop marketing strategies, set up their financial systems and coordinate their business systems.

Both workshops will be held at the John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School. These workshops are free for Bowdoinham businesses and residents. There will be worksheets and handouts for participants to take home.

For more information or questions, please contact Nicole Briand, Director of Planning & Development at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Merrymeeting Bay Farmers

By Kennebec Estuary Land Trust

Make a difference for your local farmers! The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT) invites fans of local food, supporters of Bowdoinham's working farmers, and advocates of the town's rural economy and charm to help protect the working farmland on Pork Point. Through an online crowdfunding campaign, everyone can support local farmland protection. KELT's campaign to raise \$25,000 started February 14 and lasts through April 2. Visit www.kennebecestuary.org for more information. Donate and share with friends to help spread the word. Every gift will support a future for Maine's Merrymeeting Bay farms and local food!

Farming has long been an essential part of the rural economy and way of life in Maine. Access to affordable, productive land has become increasingly difficult and expensive, especially for new farmers. Access to fertile land is essential to local economies, however, in the next decade, almost 400,000 acres of farmland will change hands in Maine.

In recent years, KELT has recognized the growing need to support local farming and other regional agriculture efforts. The land trust's first agricultural easement was completed in 2012, and it conserved 50+ acres of farmland along the shores of the Bay in Bowdoinham. Conservation projects, like the protection of Pork Point farmland using the conservation tool of agricultural easements, will help to ensure that this land will remain agriculturally active and affordable to working farmers forever.

Since 2013, KELT has been collaborating with fellow conservation partners, Maine Farmland Trust and state and federal agencies, to protect working agricultural fields and wildlife habitat on Pork Point. At 80 acres and stretching along the Kennebec and Abagadasset Rivers on Merrymeeting Bay, these lands contain prime farmland soil types as identified

by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Including Winooski and Hadley Silt



Credit: Chris Cabot, KELT

Loams, these deep rich soils are known as some of "the best agricultural soils in Maine." They are key to the region's high agricultural productivity and are critical to a farmer's livelihood.

The shoreline, an exemplary freshwater tidal marsh, is recognized as crucial habitat for tidal waterfowl and wading birds. Protecting these parcels would connect existing conserved lands (protected by KELT and its conservation collaborators). This creates a desirable, undeveloped block not only benefiting working farmers but also the existing wetland habitat and by extension the birds, fish, insects, and mammals that make Merrymeeting Bay their home.

KELT is hosting the campaign on a new crowdfunding platform, Conserve With Us. Created to better connect people to conservation fundraising efforts and organizations in their communities, the platform will provide KELT with a modern way to connect with people throughout Maine and the across the globe. Visit www.conservewith.us/kelt to learn more and visit KELT's campaign to make a gift.

The Kennebec Estuary Land Trust is a membership supported organization dedicated to protecting the land, water and wildlife of the Kennebec Estuary. It maintains eleven preserves for public enjoyment and has protected 3,500+ acres of land since founding in 1989. FMI visit www.kennebecestuary.org or call (207) 442-8400.

BCDI News

By Abby Sadauckas

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urrent & New Tools to Support Farms in Your Town

Wednesday, March 14th, 8:30-11:30am
at Coombs Building, 13 School Street
Co-hosted by GrowSmart Maine and
Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative

Hear community & municipal leaders share policy approaches and practical ideas for ways communities and farmers can benefit from working together. Maine's food system and local food movement are growing and provide unique economic and community development opportunities in rural and suburban areas.

We encourage farmers, land owners and anyone that owns farmland in the town to attend. Attendees will come away knowing how to enable their community to work together with current and future farmers to protect and build on Maine's agricultural heritage and potential. Our panel of experts will share how you and your hometown can welcome and retain small agricultural businesses.

Stephanie Gilbert, Farm Viability & Farmland Protection Specialist with the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry will moderate this panel discussion, followed by ample time for audience Q&A and networking with community partners.

Registration

Active Farmer – \$10
BCDI & GrowSmart Maine Members – \$15
General Public – \$25

<http://growsmartmaine.org/events/forum-growing-farm-friendly-communities-bowdoinham/>

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

March

13th

Public Works Information Meeting, 6pm
Town Hall, 13 School St

14th

Tools to Support Farms, 8:30-11:30am
Kendall Meeting Room

22nd

Business Workshop, 3-5pm
Graduate Meeting Room

28th

Special Town Meeting, 6pm
Town Hall, 13 School St

April

12th

Public Hearing - Proposed Land Use
Ordinance Amendments, 6:30pm
Kendall Meeting Room

17th**Property Taxes Due****19th**

Business Workshop, 6-8pm
Graduate Meeting Room

21st**Roadside Clean-up Day****27th & 28th**

18th Annual Rummage Sale
Town Hall, 13 School St

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held in 2nd Floor Meeting Room at John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School Street.

Select Board Meetings

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

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Committee on Aging

3rd Monday of Month at 2:30pm

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

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