

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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May - June 2021

Business Spotlight

By Wendy Rose

Carpentry

Johnathan Ouellette

on Ouellette says that the word, "community" is a good way to describe all the support he got when he launched his business two years ago. Friends, neighbors, and professional colleagues stepped up and referred clients and projects to him. The contacts Jon had developed throughout his 19 years of working at Kennebec Builders were also a vital help. "Friends in town have been very supportive," he says. As a result, he has been busy with building and carpentry projects ever since getting underway.

I met with Jon at the house he is building for his family on White Road. Stepping in to the bright, sunny open space, I was immediately struck by the impressive brick fireplace and chimney rising up to the cathedral ceiling. This central structure was completed by Rick Leech, one of the profiles in the last newsletter. Jon has thoughtfully laid out a one floor living space that accommodates a master bedroom/bathroom suite in one wing with a separate bedroom, bathroom, and study space in another wing for the younger or older generation. On the lower level, I loved the dry, high-ceiling basement just as much as the living space. For now it serves as a storage and work area. The large front porch will be a great gathering space in warmer weather. Jon is hoping they can move in this month.

Like many, I enjoyed seeing the progress Jon made on the older, yellow, house on



Center Street in the village. The Gothic window detail, lovely porch, and re-landscaped yard added to the curb appeal when it came time to sell it last year. "I have been trained to do it all, but I really like to finish the outside so that it has real appeal," Jon says.

Examples of other projects he has done include redoing a bathroom, replacing a floor, renovating a kitchen, and completely reconstructing the outside of a house with new windows and new siding. "The part I like the best is when the job is completed to the best quality possible," he says. "I think about what I would like done with my own house and then try to do that for others."

While covid restrictions haven't slowed Jon down, he has seen raw material prices go up. Sometimes he must wait longer for his supplies, but he is able to adjust the projects so there is no real delay. Since he often works alone, it is easy to use safe covid practices.

Cold weather is the other thing that doesn't slow him down too much. If it is

over 20 degrees, he can work outdoors, and in colder weather he does indoor projects. This enables him to keep busy throughout the year.

Jon is looking forward to continuing the business for at least 10 years, and to having his son join him on some of the projects. Because his wife helps with the paperwork, he is able to concentrate on the construction work

"I like to make people happy, and I especially like it when they call me back to work on a new project," Jon says. "It is great to get to know my customers and to work with them on their ideas."

You can contact Jon by calling 837-3370 or emailing him at jouellette4444@gmail.com

Shearlings Salon

Julie Booty

uring her 30-year career as a hair stylist, Julie Booty has done it all. She has worked in a variety of salons, managed the Cutting Crew Salon in Topsham, taught styling at an academy in southern Maine, and had her own studio at the former post office building in the village until it was sold. The pandemic gave Julie an opportunity to pause and think about what she liked to do best. "I realized that I liked direct contact with my customers most of all," she says. "I wanted a safe place to work and decided I could do that by having my own space at my home." BCDI loaned Julie the money to convert a room in her home, and she was able to get her business license in May 2020.

Continued on Page 2.

Committee Members Needed for:

- Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham
- Board of Appeals
- · Cemetery Committee
- · Comprehensive Planning Committee
- Finance Committee

Interested in participating?
Contact the Town Office for details.

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The salon Julie has created enables her to offer all the services she normally would in any salon. She can do wash, cut, styling, permanents, color, highlights, ear piercing, and waxing. Paul Mitchell products are available for sale, and her driveway pro-



Julie in her Salon vides excellent parking.

"Someone once told me that I'm a connector," Julie says. The salon enables her to connect with folks throughout the community. Lots of news and information is shared. Not only do her customers feel free to ask Julie about community happenings, but she also appreciates the advice and support they provide her. "I'm starting to be an empty nester, so talking with my clients about their experience with this stage has been helpful," she says. Julie has lived in Bowdoinham since 1997, has served on the school board, and is an administrator for the Bowdoinham Friends and Family group on Facebook, so she is a wealth of information.

Julie is encouraged that her customer base is growing. "I feel so much more peaceful in my own space," she says. "I can concentrate on providing a good service." Being able to manage safe covid practices means that her customers can get the personal care they need in a protected environment. "I have been doing this for 30 years and still love what I do," she says.

To contact Julie, you can call or text 751-4781. To request an appointment online visit facebook.com/ShearlingsSalon and click 'Book Now'. Her home/salon is located at 88 Pond Road. The salon entrance is just off the driveway.

Tidewater Tree Service

Allen Gaddy

llen Gaddy has been around plants his whole life. His parents started a nursery in the 1980's, and Allen grew up learning about both horticulture and small business management. It led him to major in forestry and horticulture at a college in North Carolina. After moving to Maine, he got his Maine Arborist license and worked for other tree service companies. "I always had in mind that I wanted to own my own business," he says. "Once I felt confident that I could safely handle any kind of tree challenge, I went ahead and went out on my own in 2014."

You can call on Allen to do any kind of tree or shrub service such as full tree removal, trimming, planting, cabling, bracing, apple tree pruning, and preservation. These services can help homeowners keep a neat landscape appearance, open up space for more sunlight, help a loved tree live longer, or deal with a tree that presents a hazard. He can also prune shrubs and ornamental trees. "The one thing I don't do is spraying for pests such as brown-tailed moths since that takes extra equipment and includes extra hazards," he says.

"I really enjoy working outside," Allen says. "Each job is like a puzzle. The more technical it is, the more fun." Allen's goal is to meet his customer's expectations and to leave a clean worksite at the end of the day. The challenge is to schedule jobs in the face of weather variables and to stay physically safe.

While Allen will travel as far as Portland and Augusta, he appreciates the fact that more jobs have been opening up for him closer to home in Bowdoinham. Word of mouth, advertising in the Bowdoinham newsletter, and returning customers have kept him so busy that his wife, Melanie has now joined him in the business. The pan-

demic actually increased the calls for work since more people were staying home and noticing the yard and tree work that needed to be done. He hopes to have a crew of three busy with jobs by next year.

Allen has several tips for good tree care. One is the importance of keeping trees healthy by having them pruned from time to time. This saves money in the long run and can increase their life span. For those interested in tapping their sugar maples for syrup, it is best to leave older, larger trees alone since they don't rebound as well from taps. Sugar Maples in particular don't like salt, so it is important to plant them away from any roadside salt distribution.

"One of my favorite things about this business is that it has helped us to be more connected with Bowdoinham," says Allen. "It has given us a chance to branch out from our usual contacts and meet more people in town."

To contact Allen, you can call the office at 613-5458 or email him at tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com.



Allen and Mel Gaddy



KELT in the Community

Reeve Wood, KELT Board President

he baseball and softball season is nearly upon us, during which many of Bowdoinham's inhabitants will, by choice or duty, spend a lot of time huddled (in April) and, eventually, sprawled (in late May) around the Town's recreation fields. If, as sometimes happens, you need a break from the action, you might try taking a stroll in the direction of the big North Field (a.k.a. The Field of Dreams). When you get to the backstop, break left and head down the third base line, aiming for a spot in the tree-line just to the left of the left field foul pole. As you approach, you'll see a gap in the trees to your left and a sign for the Gully Trail. Head for that gap.

Leaving the baseball field, you enter a different world. Follow the well-marked trail downhill and across the stable and attractive boardwalk through a freshwater wetland. Heading up the rise on the other side, you officially enter the Red Rose Preserve, an approximately 125-acre parcel of land owned and maintained by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (or KELT), a nonprofit conservation organization. Made possible by generous gifts of land from Bowdoinham residents Mark Lancaster and Pam and Joe Hanson, the purpose of the preserve is to protect important plant and animal habitat and ensure recreational opportunities for the local human population. The preserve has one main loop trail just under a mile long, with additional small loop and cutoff trails. While the trails stick mainly to the wooded section, the preserve also includes several acres of fields that front on the Post Road. These fields are prime Bobolink habitat in the early summer and, once the birds have moved on, are haved by the Millay Road's own Apple Creek Farm.

In addition to being in walking distance of so many of our residents, the Red Rose Preserve also abuts the Community School and, in a year where space has become so important, has given our teachers and students room to build on the thriving forest kindergarten program and push more educational activity into the outdoors. KELT staff are also working with Bowdoinham's Dana Legawiec to create outdoor learning opportunities in and around the Red Rose Preserve as part of a project funded by a Maine 200 Bicentennial Commission grant awarded to MSAD 75 (see the March-April 2021 Newsletter, page 6). Projects include mapping activities, bug motels, bird boxes, and trail maintenance. Did I mention bug

Together with these more visible contributions to the Bowdoinham community, KELT also holds conservation easements on approximately 70 acres of high-value farmland along Merrymeeting Bay on the Pork Point and Centers Point Roads. These easements, which keep farmland in private ownership but prevent future non-agricultural development, are the result of KELT's years-long work with the landowners, other conservation organizations like Friends of Merrymeeting Bay and Maine Farmland Trust, and state and federal funding programs.

Based in Bath and operating with a small staff, KELT is very much a member-driven organization and depends on a robust volunteer effort to do its work. Bowdoinham has been somewhat underrepresented in KELT's membership. We need Bowdoinham residents to help us identify worthy land conservation projects in town, care for preserves, develop and deliver educational programming, and undertake citizen science. Please visit kennebecestuary.org/ to learn more about what KELT does and how you can help.

Bowdoinham Public Library

By Kate Cutko

he Library continues to offer in-person hours three days a week, in addition to curbside pickup of books and other resources. We welcome you to come in on Tuesdays 10 to 2, Fridays

2 to 6 and Saturdays 10 to 2. We are actively making plans for some summer programming and want you to mark your calendars.

The library plans to have a weekly presence at the Farmer's Market at the waterfront on Saturday mornings. We will tow our lovely "Story Dory" to the waterfront, filled with used books to hand out for free. Donations accepted, of course. We will be offering a live read-aloud Storytime for kids on Saturday mornings at the Gazebo... with details to come. If you want to know the latest news, follow us on Facebook and check our website.

Matt Loosigian of Earth Jams will offer a concert for kids and families on Saturday July 24, 2021 at 10am at the Gazebo. Matt is a dynamic, spirited performer who has delighted Bowdoinham kids with his music for many years. Mark your calendars because your whole family will want to hear with Matt!

Bowdoinham Library will take part in a Maine Humanities Council summer community read, called ReadMe. We will have 12 copies each of two books (one fiction—Mainely Power by Matt Cost, one nonfiction—Mill Town by Kerri Arsenault). A June 4th episode of Maine Calling on MPBN will feature discussion with both authors. Later in the summer, our library plans to offer several events, both online and in person, to supplement the reading of these two titles. Please follow library news to hear more about speakers and discussions.

Speaking of book discussions, the library has been hosting three book groups online throughout this pandemic. Our readers keep reading, and we all love to discuss books with other readers. Contact the library to learn how you might join one of these lively groups.

Don't forget the free downloadable audio books and ebooks through CloudLibrary! So many of you discovered this valuable service during the COVID shut down! Call Kate if you need help getting access to this great resource.

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ello, and happy spring! We have so much to update you on! Please read on to learn about the recipients from our third and final round of Community Response Grants, our spiffy new Farmland Inventory website, the latest BCDI loan to be paid off, and one of our organization's essential funding events, May Membership Month (we sure hope you'll participate!).

BCDI COVID-19 Community Response Grant Program

hanks to the extremely generous support of you, our members and friends in the community, BCDI was able to award \$8,370.00 in grants during our third and final round of funding for our BCDI Covid-19 Community Response Grants! In one year, we have been able to award \$27,370.00 to folks in the Bowdoinham community whose work supports BCDI's core mission with a focus in increasing access to food, improving health and wellness, restoring community connections, and/or otherwise meeting the basic needs of the Bowdoinham community.

Grant funding is not something BCDI has ever done before. Again, it is thanks to supporters like the Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Abbagadassett Foundation, and other individuals in Bowdoinham and our surrounding communities that we have been able to offer this Community Response Grant Program. Check out our website for a list of people who have generously contributed to this work: bcdimaine.org/covid19-grants

Here are the round three BCDI COVID-19 Community Response Grants recipients:

Bowdoinham Farmers' Market:

The seasoned vendors of the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market know how to bring high quality products to customers of Bowdoinham and now have the added experience of providing this service safely during a pandemic. The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market will use grant funds to continue implementing best practices according to guidance provided from state and federal health agencies and the Maine Federation of Farmers Markets. These practices include directing and educating customers on market location and procedures; promoting and facilitating SNAP purchases and pick up of pre-orders; and facilitating hygiene and physical distance among customers and vendors. Supporting the operation of the town's farmers' market, and promoting SNAP, is not only a way for everyone in the community to access safe food, it is also a treasured way to maintain our community's social cohesion.

Dandelion Spring Farm:

Due to Covid, last season Dandelion Spring Farm lost a significant percentage of their normal customer base. In an effort to broaden their non-restaurant income base, funding from this program will be used to help offset the creation of a small booklet outlining how-to information and recipes that will be available for sale with their Certified Organic vegetable and herb seedlings. Beth Schiller, owner of Dandelion Spring Farm, also plans to make these booklets available for Bowdoinham residents at Peary's Community Garden, the Bowdoinham Public Library, and the Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

Hobart Farm:

More people have turned to growing their own vegetables and further supporting the products of our local Bowdoinham and area farmers during the pandemic. It has become apparent to Brian Hobart, owner of Hobart Farm, that he can use his family farm's composting operation to benefit local gardeners and farmers with compost that is rich and locally-produced. Funds from this program will support some of the costs of labor and raw materials in order to produce and make this compost available. This labor will also make it possible to accept brush from the community to be run through a chipper without charging for the service.

Sagadahoc Recycling Co.:

David Berry, founder of the Sagadahoc Recycling Co., has been involved in solid waste issues since the mid 1980s. Funds from this program will be used to support improvements to the Recycling Barn, which will allow residents to deposit source-separated materials from the outside, thereby safely distancing the staff inside from the public. In addition, any surplus grant money will be used to create a space which will also be safely isolated from staff to be used as a gift shop/clothing exchange/library area.

Scratch Farm:

Julia and Andy McLeod, owners of Scratch Farm, have been developing their on-farm commercial kitchen in order to increase their production capacity and efficiency, as well as to address the COVID-19 concerns of renting commercial kitchen space. Funds from this program will support the purchase of a commercial grade tomato and applesauce miller. As they shift their business practices due to COVID, this piece of machinery will allow them to boost their production capacity, thereby increasing year-round access to healthy, organic food for Bowdoinham and surrounding communities.

Watersong Music:

Earl Bigelow, owner of Watersong Music, has a student population of musicians in the Bowdoinham Community. When Covid hit and it no longer became safe to hold lessons in-person, Earl needed to pivot

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to remote music classes and online music sharing. Outdated computer equipment, however, made it nearly impossible to do this. Funds from this program will be used to support the purchase of a new desktop computer, allowing for online music lessons, an upgrade in studio technology, and a continued connection with the arts for Bowdoinham residents during this difficult time.

Congratulations to all of the recipients from our grant program! We are honored to support your efforts and look forward to hearing about your accomplishments!

BCDI Farmland Inventory Project

CDI is excited to announce the launch of our new website intended for linking farmland owners and aspiring farmers in the town of Bowdoinham. The website is part of a larger Farmland Inventory Project aiming to help map the availability of farmland in town (current use, use restrictions, etc.) and identify and support landowners interested in making their land available for farming.

If landowners want to make their property available for use by a farmer, then with this new website, they are able to set-up their own property listing with the support of Land For Good. Likewise, farm seekers are invited to create a profile where they can detail the type of farmland they are seeking. Our goal is to make this searchable database a match-making site, connecting needs while preserving farmland. Maine Farmland Trust's program, Farm Link, connects non-farming landowners with farmers seeking farm land. Our project complements the Farm Link program by offering a hyperlocal point of connection for land owners and land seekers. We expect our Farmland Inventory to serve as a model that could be used by other farming communities across the state. Check out our Farmland Inventory webpage for more details! bedimaine.org/farmland-inventory

Farmland succession, and use of all farmland in Bowdoinham, creates immediate opportunities and challenges. If we are to maintain the character of our town, continue to be a provider of healthy food, and a steward of the environment, it is essential that we help provide landowners the tools necessary to manage the future of their land. The Farmland Inventory Project aims to do this by facilitating the connections of landowners and farmer. By increasing the land base in production, we support the creation of new jobs, increase access to healthy local food, and strengthen the health of our local economy.

BCDI Neighbors Investing in Neighbors Loan Program

ongratulations to Abby and Jake, owners of Apple Creek Farm, who have paid off their third BCDI Neighbors Investing In Neighbors loan... and a full twenty-six months early, too!

Apple Creek Farm is a Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Certified Organic diversified livestock farm, established in Bowdoinham in 1985 (they are hiring for the 2021 season, so be sure to check them out!). This loan request was for funds that have been used for infrastructure investments and for larger equipment.

BCDI's Loan Program is one of our Organization's cornerstones. "Neighbors Investing In Neighbors", aims to meet local needs with local capital. The fund's investment opportunities have provided well over \$100,000 to support businesses in Bowdoinham.

While the Loan Program is coordinated by BCDI, the funds come directly from individual BCDI members who serve as "investors." Community members who are interested in helping to invest in the growth and development of local businesses in Bowdoinham can provide financial support toward the loan provided to the business. In other words, residents who choose to support the local businesses seeking loan financing will lend their personal money to the business. BCDI's role is to coordinate and administer the process between the business seeking the loan and the numerous individual investors who help to fund a loan in full. Our model truly is "neighbors investing in neighbors"!

Need a loan for your business?! Check out our website for more details, or reach out at bcdi.maine@gmail.com or bcdimaine .org/loan-investment

BCDI May Membership Month

e are pleased to ring in our 2nd annual Membership Month this May. Last year we welcomed several new individual members and business members, and received many membership renewals. As a small nonprofit your membership support is critical to our work! If you have been a member in the past please consider continuing your support of this organization this month by heading online to our website.

We are always eager to welcome new members. Membership begins at just \$10! Learn what it means to become a member at bedimaine.org, and consider becoming part of BCDI today.

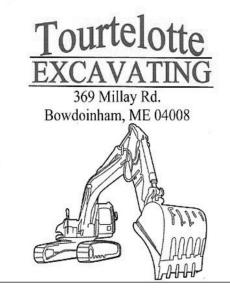
Thank you for your support, Bowdoinham! We look forward to seeing you "out and about" soon!

To Join or Renew

Online: bcdimaine.org/membership

By Mail: BCDI P.O. Box 343 Bowdoinham, ME 04008.

You can also email us at: bcdi.maine@gmail.com



New Site Prep Land Clearing Ponds Gravel Septic Systems Driveways Tree Work

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Summer Concert Series

By Earl Bigelow

atersong Music has been given the go ahead to plan a summer concert series. This is great news for all of the musicians I collaborate with and especially wonderful news for Bowdoinham and the surrounding community. The past four years since I have been producing the series it has become an appreciated and well attended event. Last years shut down due to COVID was a big disappointment to all. It shut down much of my student population and of course all the dance parties at Watersong Music.

Now 2021 promises a careful return to what makes summer so special here in Maine. Barring unforeseen circumstances we can expect busy, happy Sunday afternoons on the banks of the Cathance. The first Sunday of the series will be July 11. There will be only 8 concerts this year, but I am very happy to have them. While the service of food from the many nonprofit organizations has been very popular, I cannot at this time say that will happen. The service of food brings a whole different layer of concerns in this pandemic i environment. I expect to see many picnic baskets as it is a great place to be for a Sunday evening meal.

I will attempt to have a good variety of bands and ensembles, some new and some returns, however some have disappeared in the past year of difficulty. I can say that my band Cilantro will open the series on July 11 and we are so ready, with a new addition. I also will have the best of Watersong Music Students and friends perform on July 25. By the end of May I will be able to promote the rest of the bands for the remaining dates.

Plan on making many of these concerts in our great little gazebo, a wonderful place to be Sunday Evenings, 6 to 8 in the Waterfront park. The Wednesday following will be the rain date if necessary.

Farmers' Market

By David Asmussen

🤻 he Bowdoinham Farmers' Market returns June 5th to the Mailly Waterfront Park! Saturdays from 8:30am to noon you will find a galaxy of delicious and beautiful provisions right close to home. Let us tempt you with fresh baked bread, crisp organic veggies, grass fed meat, milk and cheese, tasty snacks, beautiful flowers, vivacious seedlings, fresh fruit and a rotating selection of incredible creativity.Blue Bell Farm, Counterpoint Bread, Maggie's Farm, Poppy Co. and The Story Dory all return. A big welcome to Tender Soles Farm, Pleasant Pond Orchard and a new member of the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans every week! Every other weekend

George Oliver is hosting a line dancing session just across the tracks. Come for kids story time with the Bowdoinham Public Library, pick up your supplies and stay for line dancing with George. It's food for body, mind and soul.

Thanks again to the generous support of BCDI we are able to provide safe and efficient service to the community and expand our SNAP and WIC programs this year. Look for the dedicated info booth for SNAP details and to pick up any pre-orders.

Email bhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com to get our weekly preview of the market and be sure to check our Facebook page for the latest news.

We are so thankful for the amazing community support and patience last season, and optimistically look forward to a new summer at the park. See you Saturdays 8:30-12:00 down at the water!

Mark your calendars:

June 5th - Opening Day
July 24th - Kids Storytime Concert
with Matt Loosigian
October 2nd - Closing Day
November 20th - Thanksgiving Market
December 18th -Solstice Market

Food Pantry News

By Hannah Burroughs

t this time last year, the Pantry was changing all its systems to offer clients prepacked bags that they picked up by car in the FHC



parking lot. It's especially exciting, then, to be planning for a return to indoor shopping! The new and improved Pantry space will open its doors to clients by summertime. Not only is the space significantly larger, but some of its cold food storage will be as well: the Pantry is applying for a Capacity Building Grant through Good Shepherd Food Bank to purchase a walk-in fridge with a cooling system as well as a fridge with glass sliding doors. Gone will be the days when clients and volunteers alike root around blindly, shuffling gallons of milk aside, to see what's available! This new arrangement will also bring increased efficiency, enable spacious storage for produce donated from local farms, and come closer to resembling a grocery store experience for clients.

We're thankful to the folks at Bowdoinham Hardware for their generous donations of laundry and dish detergent, and to so many community members for their donations of food, financial contributions, and volunteer hours. On the note of volunteer hours, please be in touch if you're interested in getting involved in any number of ways. Here are but a few:

- Wednesday distribution
- Home delivery for the backpack program
- Wednesday prep/receiving of donations
- · Cleaning and organizational tasks

To contact the Bowdoinham Food Pantry, email bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com, call 751-7779, or find us on Facebook. Donations can be made on our website at www.bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org.

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Bowdoinham Library's 48th Annual Plant Sale

By Kate Cutko

ur library plant sale is well underway, online. If you hurry over to bowdoinhamplantsale.com you will find what is remaining from our sale of annuals, herbs and vegetables. Sale ends on that website May 11.

Plant Pick-up Day is Saturday, May 15, Noon-3pm. Rain or shine. Yes, this year we will have all of the plants delivered from the nursery to the Bowdoinham Waterfront where customers will pick them up, using our COVID-safe pick-up plan. Arrive at the waterfront parking lot and you will be directed to a drive-thru-style lane. You will stay in your car and plants will be placed in your car for you, as you direct. If you have a problem picking up the plants you've ordered, please contact Kate at the library (666-8405) to arrange an alternate plan. We are able to make a few local deliveries.

But Wait! There's More!

We will have a limited number of field-grown perennials available for sale from May 15-June 15 at a self-serve garden sale. Thanks to Betsy and David Steen, the plants will be for sale at their home- 309 Bay Road. Bring cash and checks, or pay online at the Library's website. Hours of the sale: 10am-4pm. Please follow signage, wear a mask and ...do not back up onto Bay Road!

309 Bay Road, Bowdoinham 7 days a week, 10:00am - 4:00pm May 15 - June 15

As always, thank you for supporting the plant sale, the library's biggest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds go to resources and services the library offers without cost to the people of this town.

Town Tax Club

Due by July 31st

he Town of Bowdoinham is pleased to continue to offer our popular "Tax Club Plan" which allows property owners to pay their annual property tax bill in monthly installments without incurring interest. This plan was first authorized by a vote at the Town Meeting in June 2014 and is expected to be offered again this July after Town Meeting approval. To be eligible to participate in this plan the property owner must be current with their property taxes, must enroll no later than July 31, 2021, and must abide by the requirements of the plan. Automatic electronic payments are not offered under this plan, however, property owners can schedule payments online through the Town's online payment system. For more information on the 2021 Tax Club Plan, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531, or email Kelly Hodson at khodson@bowdoinham.com.

Spirit of America Nominations Needed

Due by May 10th

he Select Board is lookingor nominations for this years Spirit of America Awards. Every Year the town recognizes an outstanding volunteer individual, organization or project in our community as part of the statewide Spirit of America program. The Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, ME in 1990 to honor volunteerism and runs the Spirit of America Awards program. Since Alma Jones received the first Spirit of America award from Augusta Mayor William Burney on Nov. 26, 1991, the tribute has been presented at 500 + ceremonies!

Please send any nominations to Nicole Briand at townmanager@bowdoinham.com

Bowdoinham Community-wide Yard Sales

Saturday, May 22nd

ulti-family yard sales around the community. General hours are 8am-4pm but some sales might start later and some might end earlier. Sales are held by individual seller/property owner. This event is not sponsored by the Town or any organization. Each seller running their own sale is responsible for implementing COVID-19 safety precautions, traffic and vehicle safety, etc. For a list of sale locations, check out the event facebook page at Bowdoinham Communitywide Yard Sales. A poster with sale locations will also be on the outside bulletin board at the Country Store. If you would like to be listed as a seller, please call Kathy Montejo at 666-3093.

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Morning Jo

How The Four P's Became Five

By Jo Werther

ast time, I wrote about The Four P's of Inner Peace, a simple method of managing stress and increasing emotional wellbeing, even in hard times. And then...

A close family member received a cancer diagnosis. Suddenly, I was looking down the barrel of a huge loss that would turn my world upside down. My mind was all over the place. I was everywhere but the present. And my stress level sky rocketed.

The practice of being present is really an art. And the state of Presence, simply by its nature, can be an improbable sweet spot to hit.

So why even bother trying? Because otherwise, you'll miss out on your life.

Many things can commandeer our attention. We are all vulnerable to the grip of things like fear, nostalgia, and even regret. It's only human to get caught up in the grasp of it all.



But if we lack the ability to manage our focus, we remain at the mercy of our tendency to get lost in our heads. And if we do not know how to re-direct our attention when that happens, that's the ballgame. Because what we focus on is what we experience. And what we experience is our life.

Everyone's stress is real; no doubt about that. But did you know that stress actually has less to do with what's happening outside of us and more to do with what's happening inside of us? No matter what is going on in our lives, the more preoccupied with the past or fretful about the future we are, the more distressed we're likely to feel.

The ability to return our attention to the present whenever we need to is the key.

After three interminable weeks of medical tests, my family got good news. I felt indescribably grateful (if you've been through something like that, I know you understand). But the lesson in Presence was not lost on me. And that's when Presence became the first P of The Five P's of Inner Peace.

How might your life be different if you could learn to be more present?

Got a minute? Give it a try and see what you think!

Questions? Something else you'd like me to address next time? Email me at jowertherlcsw@gmail.com.

Bowdoinham Historical Society

2021 Theme: Bowdoinham in 1820, continued and Topics of Interest

The Power of 'Re'

he prefix 'Re' means 'again, anew, back.' In the last 50 years, people in this country and around the world have begun to review their thoughts about the earth, stewardship, and what will remain for our grandchildren and their children. Out of this rethinking has come the call to REduce, REuse, REpurpose, and REcycle.

This policy is part of Bowdoinham Historical Society's ethos.

We rediscover old stories, old documents, old books, old artifacts— from the kitchen equipment and work tools our great grandparents used to the tax records and other documents of the Town of Bowdoinham. The 1820 mariner's sextant we were recently given led to fun research about its origin (King & Son, Bristol St. London England) to speculation on which Bowdoinham sea captain owned and used it.

Thank goodness James Dunlap recorded his one and only sea voyage on the sea bag he created from the top gallant sail after a storm tore the sail from its proper place on the Bowdoinham-built ship Sea King on her maiden voyage in 1877. BHS now owns this bag, allowing us in 2021 to touch a piece of sail from 150 years ago.

In 1970, BHS acquired its first building, the 1886 Old-School (conservative) Baptist church on the corner of River and Browns Point roads. We repurposed it into our

Meeting House. Over the long years we repaired it, reroofing, raising the building and stabilizing the foundation, reroofing it again, and finally refurbishing the interior so that is now a beautiful little building we use for historic displays and our annual Yard Sale

The brick Record Center on Back Hill was built as Bowdoinham's first Telephone Building, After it was replaced by the white building on Main Street, the town loaned it to BHS for its Record Center. Now it has been repurposed again as Plant Sale Storage

On the corner of Browns Point and Center Point Roads stands the 1853 Jellerson school. After closing in 1946, it was a dwelling for farm workers, the home of the Rod and Gun Club, and finally was given to BHS. We picked at preserving it, but by 2010, it was surely on life support at best. Once we had \$10,000 from the Century Fund and lots of volunteer help, we were able to restore it to its 1912 self and repurposed it as a living classroom where students could relive the lives of young scholars of the past.

In search for an office-research space, we received permission from the Town to use the former Superintendent's office on the third floor of the Old Coombs School/ Municipal building. We cleaned, painted, added shelving; and BHS had a home.

Then came our biggest adventure. When the Merrymeeting Grange was put up for sale, the select board toured the building and decided it was beyond use. Since we are used to having to fix things, and thanks to bequests from Eva Palmer and Ida Fowle Carras, BHS was able to purchase the 1904 Grange building outright. We began fundraising and began to restore it to its longtime purpose in town—a Community Center. Some in town recall graduation ceremonies, wedding receptions, and organization events, such as BHS's Annual Harvest Suppers (What a repast!! Corned Beef and all the fixin's finished off with homemade pies donated by bakers all over town.)

Now we just await the release from the restrictions of Covid for it to turn again into the busy place we closed in March 2020.

You've guessed by now where this is leading. BHS strongly supports the return of Bowdoinham's 30 year old, award winning, recycling program to the repurposed 1960 Hobart chicken barn we know and love as the Recycling Barn!!

Let us reenergize ourselves to support Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle as we once did. Let us return glass and metal and recyclable plastics to be remade into fresh material saving the use of raw material. Let us use the Barn and save all the new material that would be needed for a brand-new recycling facility. What a silly concept: Building new to repurpose, etc. the things we no longer need!

Mail: PO Box 101, Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Online: www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org/

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

Notes from Merrymeeting Hall

pdate on the Bowdoinham 1912-2012 Quilt in progress: It is coming along beautifully. As each square comes in, we are further excited by the creativity they show!

We continue to make headway on Merrymeeting Hall. Friday Ladies are working to return the main hall to order so that once we are free to get together, it will be ready.

Now that the BHS collection is nearly transferred to Merrymeeting Hall, it seems perfectly appropriate to share some of what we have with you in Merrymeeting's space. These are transcriptions of Century Box entries from 1912. William Kendall asked everyone who donated to the Century Fund to also fill in a form he had had printed on long-lasting rag paper. Some were little more than name and address and occupation. Others gave genealogy. My favorites are the ones which talk about growing up and living in Bowdoinham.

Bowdoinham Century Box Entry on 1912 form (1 page) Name: Alma Sampson Kendall Occupation: Housewife Residence: Bowdoinham Birthplace: Bowdoinham, Me.

Date: 1860

ALMA SAMPSON KENDALL: (1860-1931) Lived in 'The Red House' (Gray, now, two turrets just town side of the Green Bridge) which her husband had had built in 1897. It was saved from the 1902 fire because it had running water, and Ed Kendall stationed men working for Sagadahoc Fertilizer on the roof with hoses to keep it wet down. It was in this house that The Battle of Gettysburg by Bowdoinham artist Isaac Fisher Eaton hug aft the artist gave it to

Alma. She later give it to Merrymeeting Grange, which donated it to Bowdoin museum of Art in about 2015 I have helped decorate for the Town Hall for the Birthday [150th] and also for Thanksgiving night when this is to be put away for the ones that will be here when the box is opened. I hope you will have as pleasant and good time as we had. I am the daughter of Henry Q. and Margaret Jane Fulton Sampson and the wife of Edward Purdy Kendall. With the best of wishes. Alma Kendall

Bowdoinham Century Box Entry on 1912 form (3 pages) Transcribed 1/30/2013 E. Steen Name: Carlton Lancaster Occupation: Farmer Residence: Bowdoinham Birthplace: Bowdoinham Date: May 10, 1836

On the 18th day of Jan. 1855, I went out from Bath in the ship J.P. Morse with Capt. Chas. Owen in command sailing straight to Mobile Bay where we loaded her with cotton and then proceeded to Harve, France, then to Cardiff, Wales, and loaded with coal. then we proceeded to Gibralter and discharged. On our way back to N.Y. we lost a man overboard. Three days later we caught a large shark & upon cutting it open, found to our surprise and joy our man sitting up to a grindstone grinding his knife. This is a real old sea yarn. I am seventy-six years old. Served 4 yrs. 7 mos. 6 days in the War of 61-65 between the North and the South. 1st Sergeant Co. B 15th Maine Vol. My father Eben Lancaster lived to be 105 years old. Born in a log house on the West side of Bowdoinham. At his onehundredth anniversary he gave a free dinner to three hundred people. My mother lived to be eighty-one yrs. old. I have five brothers and four sisters.

Bowdoinham Century Box Entry on 1912 form (1 page) Transcribed 1/29/2013 E. Steen

Name: Jane M. Given Occupation: Teaching Residence: Bowdoinham Birthplace: Richmond, Me. Date: Nov. 20, 1881

I am the daughter of Anson P.M. Given and Louisa J. Parks Given. My home has always been on a farm about two miles from Bowdoinham Village. Until I was high school age I attended the country school in the Denham District. Now the children of grammar school age are carried to the village schools at the expense of the town and the school house is torn down. Later I graduated from Bowdoinham High School in the class of eighteen hundred ninety nine which numbered twenty-five and still holds the record of being the largest class to graduate from the school. In nineteen hundred four I received an A.B. degree from Bates College. During my college course I taught one year in the Lancaster District of this town. Since graduating I have taught continuously. At present I am teaching English in the high school at Sudbury, Massachusetts. I am a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and eligible to membership in Daughters of the American Revolution.

To help out or inquire about using Merrymeeting Hall, please contact:

Betsy Steen - 737-9460 baviewess@comcast.net

Lara Ashouwak - 666-8161 lashouwak1@gmail.com

Tom DeForeest - 666-3061 tdeforeest@comcast.net

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Upcoming Town Meeting Vote to Save Money on Town's Electric Bill

By Wendy Rose

his is a quick reminder about the upcoming vote at the town meeting on a proposal to save money on Bowdoinham's electric bill.

The savings will come through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Revision Energy—the company that will install a solar panel array on the roof of the Public Works Building. The array will generate enough power to cover the electric needs for our municipal buildings and streetlights. Under this agreement, Bowdoinham will not have to put down any money up-front and will benefit from savings on its electric bill over the next 20 years. If approved at the Town Meeting, the savings will start with approximately \$1,000 in the first year and will add up to \$41,000 over the 20 years the PPA lasts.

Many municipalities have taken the step of entering PPA's ever since this option has been offered. The Bowdoinham Select Board asked the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) to research the viability of doing the same for our town back in February 2020. After deep research, interviews, and discussions, CDAC unanimously recommended that Bowdoinham take this step. The benefits seemed obvious: the town did not have to pay for the solar array up-front, the electricity it generates will be less expensive for the town, and we can continue in the agreement for 20 years without any capital expense. Changing to a renewable energy source is an added bene-

The Select Board agreed with CDAC's recommendation and issued a Request for Proposals for the project. Revision's proposal was accepted by the Select Board in Nov. after some negotiation and by adding the contingency of town meeting approval.

There have been two information sessions that provided a lot of background on solar energy in general and our town's project in particular. You can access the latter meeting at the following link: bowdoinham.com/event/solar-project-meeting

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at: wendelynrose@gmail.com.

Solar Project in Bowdoinham

Bowdoinham has an opportunity to save money on its annual budget!

How? Throughsolar power

How will this be purchased? Througha Power Purchase / Net Energy Billing Credits Agreement (PPA)



Example of solar array on an industrial type building

Partner for this PPA: ReVision Energy Installer: ReVision Energy

Location: On top of the public works building

Energy Production: Enough to power the municipal buildings and streetlights

Money down: \$0.00

Current Electric Bill: ~\$15,000per year Percentage savings: anticipated 6–13%

Terms of agreement: 20-yearagreement with ReVision Energy

After the 20 years: Decommission the solar array or repair/replace to continue use,

and benefit from the energy generated by the panels

Lifespan: Up to 40 years with some repair and upgrades

To be Decided in the Future

Buyout Options: After first 5 years

Benefits of purchase: Could lead to greater savings over the 20-yearlife of panels

For more information:
Please visit the Solar Project page on
the Town of Bowdoinham's website
bowdoinham.com/solar-project



Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Lee Parker

errymeeting Arts Center (MAC) will be continuing to offer Exhibits and Events and classes in line with emerging guidelines for Maine CDC guidelines. Please check our website for upcoming events, exhibits and classes.

Merrymeeting Take & Make Kits!

The "Merrymeeting Take & Make" project is a partnership between the Merrymeeting Arts Center (MAC) and the Bowdoinham Public Library, funded by The Anonimo Foundation. Each month, a new "Take & Make" kit is distributed, containing supplies and instructions for a single art project. Forty kits are available, at no charge, to children in Kindergarten through the 5th grade. (Additional kits may be available for purchase beyond the 40 free kits, depending on supplies). Kits are distributed by the library, the arts center and the food pantry. Please contact us if you are interested and we will see that you get one as supplies allow.

Local Myths

Bryce Muir was a Bowdoinham artist who created works of art in a variety of genre. His collection of original carvings, Local Myths, included 16 figures, each one representing a month or solstice, representing animals of Merrymeeting Bay. What follow is the introduction to the book, Local Myths, written after the series was completed.

Imagine a village straddling a serpentine river in the woods of Maine. A river that spills into a great tidal bay. The locals in this village come together as the seasons change to celebrate the magic nature of the place. Around a ceremonial fire, masked dancers in animal costumes perform, while musicians play, poets recite, and story-tellers tell the perennial tales. These images are glimpses of such ritual dancers. These stories might be the tales told in such a village. Taken together they celebrate the turning of the wheel in a special place.

Several years ago, MAC was gifted 12 of the original 16 sculptures in this collection by Peggy and Seth Muir. The whereabouts of the remaining four sculptures was unknown and MAC issued a WANTED poster in hopes of finding them. FANTASTIC NEWS! Three of the four "missing" Local Myths have been located in a private collection in Maine. We hope to reunite CRICKETT, EAGLE, and DEER with the MAC collection for the annual fall exhibit.

MAC also chooses one of the collection to highlight each year. This year's myth is

MOTH. One sentence in the story stands out: "It had been a long journey for Moth, and much of the journey was obscure to her now." Not unlike Moth we too are beginning to emerge from our cocoons into a world somewhat familiar but nevertheless changed. MAC's fall exhibit, traditionally opening during Celebrate Bowdoinham, will feature Moth along with the other Local Myths. We will exhibit local work related to Moth and her story.

Merrymeeting Arts Center encourages art, education and community celebrating the cultural heritage and natural environment of Merrymeeting Bay.

Inspired and guided by the eclectic values of the life and spirit of Bryce Muir, the Center joyfullypromotes egalitarianism, whimsy, environmental consciousness, and diversity through its artists, programs and projects. The center is located in Bowdoinham, Maine at 9 Main Street adjacent to Mailly Park and the Cathance River boat launch.

For more information on the Merrymeeting Arts Center, its history and current doings, please visit www.merrymeetingartscenter.org, email us at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com or leave us a message at 207-370-5002.

WANTED

To all citizens of the town of Bowdoinham, indeed the great state of Maine and Beyond!

Last seen in the company of one Bryce "the Toymaker" Muir.

These 4 "rascally" characters are reported to be on the loose and must be found and brought to justice.

Be Aware, They May Be Hiding In Plain Sight - On A Bookshelf Or End Table In A Home Near You! Do Not Attempt To Apprehend On Your Own!

"The CRICKET"

Skillful and adept at hiding, while this culprit's fast fingers may lean towards a predispostion for petty larsony, his "fiddling" can be an even greater disturbance to the peace and quiet of the community.



"The DEER"

Strong and sure, here the silent "Hunted Becomes The Lone Hunter". Most likely solo, be on the look-out as you venture in and near the great Maine woods.



Bold and brazen, this dark villian reportedly stole the Sun! While the plan was thwarted, he is still at large and now considered to be a global terrorist.



"The EAGLE" This same to the

Inis mastermind is sure to be "hatching" his next diabolical caper. Perhaps over confident, he may yet be undone by his own bravado.



If any good citizen holds knowledge of their where abouts, you are urged to report to The Merrymeeting Arts Center at 207-370-5002 immediately!

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

May

1st

Property Taxes Due

 11^{th}

Public Hearing on Town Warrant

14th

Plant Sale Pick Up

22nd

Community Yard Sale

31st

Memorial Day (Office Closed)

June

5th

Opening Day, Farmer's Market

8th

School Election

9th

Town Meeting

July

5th

Office Closed

Town Board and Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held online via Zoom, please visit www.bowdoinham.com/calendar for meeting login information.

Select Board

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

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of Month at 2:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee 1st Monday of Month at 4:30pm

Solid Waste Committee Every other Wednesday at 5:30pm

Town of Bowdoinham 13 School Street Bowdoinham, ME 04008

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