



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Musical Services

By Wendy Rose

What better way to beat the winter blues than to enjoy some musical lessons?

Earl Bigelow Musical Instruction

After many years of performing in bands and pursuing his own musical career, Earl started to teach music to others in his early 40's. "I get a great deal of satisfaction in teaching," he says. "Music is there for everyone. My teaching is geared to helping a student enjoy music immediately. If they enjoy it, then they want to know the whys and wheres."

Earl is so versatile, he can teach students guitar, keyboards, singing and performing and can also give them guidance on other instruments such as drums. A lot of his students have played in the past, and he helps to revive their interest. Others are brand new to playing. He will start with the music they enjoy listening to and direct them in their ability to learn that music themselves. His studio at 9 Main Street in Bowdoinham village includes a large room for performing and practicing as well as a smaller studio for recording and instruction. He works with people one-on-one, as well as in small ensembles. He enjoys seeing the evolving growth of his students and has had many of them stay with him over a number of years. During a recent visit to his studio, I heard an impressive ensemble of young men on drums, lead guitar, and bass guitar playing with Earl, who was on keyboard. They had been playing with Earl since Junior High School and were now seasoned and accomplished musicians.

"I like to start with where the student

is and then try to take them to the next level," he says. "This isn't in a hugely structured approach. I don't want their lesson to be like a dentist appointment. I try to create an environment where my students can explore the music they love and get better at it."



While music has been a major part of Earl's life over the years, he has always understood that it doesn't provide the

full income needed for self-support. "If you depend on your music to support you, and you are hungry and cold, then you will resent your art," he says. "You can't ask your muse to pay your gas and power bill." Balancing both a regular job along with music instruction and his own performance gigs is a time management challenge, so Earl is very organized and uses his time well.

In the future, Earl would like to

expand what Watersong Studio can provide. In the one and a half years he has been at his current location, he has grown tremendously, and he is interested in seeing how much it can expand. There are already regular student performances and dance parties all of which give his students valuable experience. By upgrading his recording space, he will be able to offer the benefits of practice and professional recordings.

You can reach Earl at 607-9027 or by email at earlspad@gmail.com.

Susan Brown Piano Instruction

Susan's parlor in her historic house at 531 River Road is the center for her musical instruction. She works with children who are around seven or eight and helps them develop their musical talent for as long as they are interested. "I want children to have a positive first exposure to music," Susan says, so she uses piano books that include jazz, blues, folk, and classical pieces. Music theory concepts are woven throughout the lessons. "I want the children to learn to read music and to develop a proper technique. Once they are advanced intermediates, they are ready for instruction from another teacher," she says.

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Musical Services

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Starting the piano at the age of eight, Susan played for high school choruses, church, and other groups in her hometown of Lisbon Falls. After settling down with her family in Bowdoinham, a friend insisted that she teach her 2 boys, and Susan's piano tuner urged her to try it. One of those original students went on to study organ in college and is now a professional musician.

Susan usually has 5 to 12 students and is currently able to take on more. Lessons are usually weekly for a half hour to 45 minutes. Once the students build up a repertoire of pieces, "I find it is very important for them to perform so they can learn that performing is a good experience," Susan says. She lines up opportunities in such places as The Highlands, Bodwell, and Elm St. (Topsham) where the older residents love to hear the students play and the children have the experience of a supportive audience.

In the past, Susan has offered a sing and play class for preschoolers sponsored by the Bowdoinham Recreation Department, and she is hoping to do another one after the New Year. A meeting room at the Municipal Building provides a great space for the children to spread out, play musical games and be in a group. "I found it is a good way for children up to the age of four or five to meet the other children they will be starting school with, and the parents have a chance to meet each other as well," she says.

Susan can be reached by phone at 666-8162 or by email: brown_531@myfairpoint.net.

Margot Frost **Voice and Performance Instruction**

"My main goal is to give young people the confidence to feel good about something in their life and to make their journey as pleasurable as possible," Margot explains. Having been involved in music and performance from a young age, she understands both the mechanics and the spirit of vocal expression and loves to pass

on her joy in singing to others.

Margot's musical performance started in high school. She watched others and mimicked what she saw. As she got more involved, she learned the guitar and was a part of a singing group. Wanting to learn more, she studied music theory in college for



Margot Frost

two years, but she feels her real ability grew as she just went out and performed

Her skills as an instructor developed over many years when she gave riding instruction. She found she loved to teach children and to get them excited about learning. After moving to Bowdoinham, Margot wove both of these interests together while working with Earle Bigelow at Watersong Music. Music and instruction came together naturally as she started helping young people with their desire to sing and perform. "We get the kids interested first," she says. "We ask them what kind of music they like and start there. I find I have a real connection with them because I have been there myself." Margot also has the deeper understanding of breathing technique and how to take care of one's vocal chords, so she can help a new vocalist with that vital instruction from the beginning. "I help them develop their voice—the phrasing, feel, and the passion about what they're singing. They light up and have so much fun."

Most of Margot's students are 12-16 years old, but she is also happy to work with adults and has room for more students. Lessons usually last for a half hour. "A big part of what I teach is how to sing harmony and how to perform with others," she says. This is a crucial next step once someone has found their own voice.

Margot's work in music brings in a

part-time income for her which provides a supplement to her full-time work. "I am excited to be doing this instruction at Watersong and look forward to expanding it into the schools," she adds. You can reach Margot at 978-337-8080 or email her at margot56@mac.com.

"Bowdoinham is a very special town. I'm so excited about the music that is being done here at Watersong and am happy to be a part of it," she concludes.

Kate Gray **Violin Instruction**

Music has been a huge part of Kate's life from a very young age growing up in Harpswell. Her mother played the violin and viola, and Kate started playing the violin at the age of five. She loved playing with others and enjoyed her experiences at music camp. It seemed a natural evolution for her to major in music during her college career at Yale University which provided a solid foundation in music theory. It was her degree in music education from the University of Southern Maine, however, that gave her the practical methods for offering music instruction to others.

Kate's experience in the Waterville and Skowhegan school districts gave her a great background in working with young people. She was able to translate this experience into providing private violin instruction at home after she started her family. Her home music studio is on the Ridge Road, just north of the village. She has students from age five and up. Most lessons are a half hour to 45 minutes on a weekly basis throughout the year. While most of her students are young people, she also enjoys working with adults.

"I focus on classical music in my classes, but I love fiddle tunes as well and include them in my teaching," Kate says. She likes using a set of music books that have graphic illustrations which show specific techniques. "The illustrations are very helpful to students and their parents as well," she says. Kate usually has 10 to 30 students at any given time and right now has room to take on more students.



Kate Gray

Kate finds that giving performances can be a wonderful motivation for students. She uses it as a “treat.” “It’s like dessert after all the hard practice,” she says.

“Music is understandable to anyone,” Kate says. “It’s something that is worthwhile for anyone to try. I like to help students take music apart and then put it back together.” By giving students musical tools, Kate feels that they can then own those tools and find their own expression. Their playing then becomes something an audience can enjoy as well.

Kate performs in the Midcoast Symphony, so she gets an opportunity to always be learning new pieces. She loves the experience of making music with others and creating those magical moments when everything comes together.

In the future, Kate would like to expand the number of her students so she can do more with groups. She loves finding ways to increase her students’ love of music and to make it easier for them to learn musical techniques and expression.

You can reach Kate by calling 666-5750.

Ann Hartzler Piano and Organ Instruction

Ann’s family obtained a piano when she was six years old. She was immediately fascinated by it and wanted to learn to play. She has never stopped learning. Her early lessons in Wilmington Delaware helped her to advance to the point where she was competing in music contests in high school, and was very busy with accompanying individuals and groups. It seemed natural to major in music in college; however, the program at Oberlin was not a good fit for Ann and she went on to get a degree in business.

She never stopped learning music theory, however, and started offering private lessons for individuals and group classes after college. At one point, she had 40 students per week. That all changed when she moved to Maine. Without the same population concentration, Ann pieced together a career in a legal office and



Ann Hartzler

then with an engineering firm. She also kept busy playing the piano and organ at a number of churches, accompanying various choral groups, and performing in concerts. She is currently the organist at the Phippsburg Congregational Church.

As people heard her play, they inquired about lessons. She now has 2 students. “I like to find out what the student’s goals are,” she says. “Do they want to learn to play hymns for church or improve their technique?” She starts out with method books, but then moves away from them after a year or two to pieces that will help the students reach their goals. Her specialty is classical music, but she can help students with any style. Ann offers instruction in her own home at 22 Center Street on both the piano and organ and she is available to go to someone’s house if necessary. “I can work with students who are six years old and older up through intermediate or advanced levels. “I’m also happy to work with adults,” she says.

Ann loves to play and perform with others so she finds opportunities for her students to perform as well. She uses her connections with area churches to provide encouraging audiences and supportive experiences.

In 2001, Ann began seriously studying organ and took lessons with Ray Cornils, Portland’s Municipal Organist. She is currently serving as the Dean of the Maine Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and has a very busy schedule through next July. Their members’ recital will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 at the Phippsburg Congregational church.

“My five year plan is to have more students,” Ann says. She loves working with people and looks forward to devoting more of her time to providing instruction. For now, she can be available in the evening for lessons.

You can contact Ann by calling 666-5586 or emailing her at ann.hartzler@gmail.com.

Polar Plunge Nets Cold Cash

By Seth Berry

There was plenty of snow and ice for this year’s Polar Bear Dip. Despite having responded to a structure fire and a vehicle accident earlier the same day, Bowdoinham’s Fire Department showed up to clear the ice and snow and to keep jumpers from drifting downriver.

There were only four jumpers: Jeremy Cluchey and his friend Nick, raising funds for the Bowdoinham Food Pantry, and 5th grader Spencer LeClair and Seth Berry, raising money for the 5th grade field trip fund. All dippers this year fully immersed, with Spencer leading the way.

As a special thank you to his donors, who gave over \$1,800 in all, including a generous \$1,000 from FHC, Seth took off his snorkel and his wet pants, coat and tie and went in a second time, performing a backflip off the end of the dock after giving a brief lesson on proper attire for December swimming in the Cathance, such as the use of rafting sandals with ice treads attached.

Having taken the plunge at least once every year the Polar Bear Dip has been held, Seth credits the Fire Department with the fact that he is still alive. He also encourages others to join him next year, saying “Come on in! The water’s fine!” On behalf of the 5th grade parents and students, he extends special thanks to FHC for their support.



Bowdoinham’s 5th graders with Seth Berry (back) and Spencer LeClair (left). Photograph by Patrizia Bowker

CEO Corner - Alarms

By Darren Carey

In light of all the recent incidents around the State, I feel it is important to reiterate the importance of Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors. These alarms are essential to keeping our loved ones and ourselves safe. An alarm that is functioning effectively provides an early warning which allows one to escape as quickly as possible. In order to escape as quickly as possible it is important to have a fire escape route. It is a good exercise to walk through your home and inspect all exits and escape routes. These routes should remain clear at all times. Check to make sure that all doors and windows can be opened easily. This walk through can be used to educate children about fire safety and the importance of having a plan in place. The National Fire Prevention Association recommends carrying out a drill twice a year and making it as realistic as possible. Smoke Alarms, CO Alarms or a combination Smoke-CO Alarm must be installed in accordance with the manufactures' specifications. It should also be noted that CO alarms are not replacements for smoke alarms or vice versa. Smoke alarms and CO alarms have different sounds and it is good practice to know the difference between the two. Smoke alarm failures usually result from missing, disconnected, or dead batteries. A good rule of thumb is to change the batteries when one changes one's clock for daylight savings and test alarms at least once a month. For more information please visit National Fire Prevention Association at www.nfpa.org.

Causes of Fatal Residential Building Fires (2011)

Unintentional, careless: 15.3%
Smoking: 14.1%
Under investigation: 12.4%
Electrical malfunction: 12.3%
Intentional: 8.8%
All other causes: 37.1%

Stats Curtesy of
U.S. Fire Administration

Bowdoinham, an Age Friendly Community

By Patricia Oh

We all know that Bowdoinham is a great place to live! Now, the world is starting to recognize it as well! In June, Bowdoinham became the first community in Maine to be accepted as part of the World Health Organization's Network of Age Friendly Communities. Late in 2014 the World Health Organization invited cities and towns throughout the world to pilot a newly developed guide that municipalities can use to measure the age friendliness of their community. Each city that was chosen will receive a \$5,000.00 grant to field test the guide and to provide advice about how the guide could be improved. In the United States, only Washington, DC and

Bowdoinham were asked to participate in the program.

To complete the evaluation of the guide, the Advisory Committee on Aging needs your help! As part of project, COA will be conducting a few focus groups to hear your opinions about Bowdoinham. What do you think is great about living here and what do you think needs improvement? In what ways can Bowdoinham improve its age friendliness? The Bowdoinham Town website (www.bowdoinham.com) will have information about date, time, and place.

For more information about the pilot or about the focus groups, please contact Patricia Oh, Coordinator of Older Adult Services at 207-666-5531, ext. 110 or p.oh@bowdoinham.com.

Property Tax Exemptions

By Linda Jariz

All applications for property tax exemptions and current use programs must be submitted to the Town's Assessing Agent, Ron Beal, no later than April 1, 2015. Please check to make sure that you are receiving the property tax benefits that you qualify for.

Homestead Exemption. If you have owned and lived in your home for more than 1 year, you are likely eligible to receive a \$10,000 exemption on your property valuation for tax purposes.

Veteran Exemption. A veteran who served in a recognized war period AND is age 62 or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a veteran; or became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for a \$6,000 exemption.

Paraplegic Veteran Exemption. A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may receive up to a \$50,000 exemption.

Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement & Exemption. If you own a business, these programs allow you to not pay (or be reimbursed for paying) taxes on

your business equipment.

Property Tax Fairness Credit. This program, for those who qualify, can help offset some of your property taxes or rent payments. This credit is taken when you file your Maine State Income tax return. For more information, please go to www.ptla.org. There are income guidelines as well as other criteria for using this tax credit.

Tree Growth Program. To qualify you must own 10+ forested acres and have a Forest Management and Harvest Plan.

Farmland Program. To qualify you must have 5+ contiguous acres that is used for farming that generates \$2000+ in gross income.

Open Space Program. There is no minimum acreage required to qualify for this program, however the property must be preserved or restricted in use to provide a public benefit.

Working Waterfront Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage the preservation of working waterfront land.

For more information, contact Ron Beal at 666-5531 on Wednesdays from 9am to 5pm.

News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Lee Parker

Our year officially starts on Saturday, February 7th with our annual **Ice & Smelt Festival**. In addition to games, competitions, art activities, the opening of our winter exhibit and the BEST BEARD Contest, we will have an Ice Carving Demonstration. Sub Zero Ice Carvings will do a daylong demonstration using 3 ton blocks of ice. Come experience the beauty and magic of ice!

Indoor and outdoor activities are planned to engage and entertain the young and old. Planning for these activities will begin in January. Ideas and volunteers are needed and wanted.

In the evening we will offer a soup supper featuring a variety of soups, from the traditional to the exotic. This year we will partner with the Bowdoinham Food Pantry and the MAC Pottery Project. Soup will be offered in the traditional disposable bowls (don't worry they're recyclable), as well as in special bowls created by our local potters. Proceeds for the event will benefit both MAC and Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

The festival will draw to a close with the launching of beautiful Sky Lanterns that drift into the night sky with a warm glow. For a full schedule of Ice & Smelt Festival events please go to www.merrymeetingartscenter.org.

The **Pottery Project** will be offering classes, workshops and special events for potters of all ages and levels. Studio space will also be available to more experienced

clay enthusiasts that would like to work independently on their own projects.

Want a class or space to create? Email or call and leave us a message at: merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com, or 370-5002.

Make & Take Art is coming back! This popular activity has been part of Celebrate Bowdoinham and the Holiday Festival for many years, butn it actually started as Drop-in Art at the Gazebo during the summer vacation with Peggy Muir. Now it is back during the school year by popular demand, so watch our website for information about this new art class!

The Arts Center will be hosting workshops and activities during the **February School Vacation**. Let's build dollhouses or just a room. Perhaps make pottery to complement the tiny décor. The arts center will be hosting workshops and activities during the February School Break. Let us know what interests you and we will offer it!

Our **Winter Exhibit** will open in February for the Ice & Smelt Festival. Think SMALL...smelt shacks, tiny homes, dollhouses. Winter is the perfect time to think of small and cozy.

In April we will open our annual emerging artists show for young people aged 18 and under. This year's theme will be "Vernal Pools: Fiddleheads and Ferns". Start fiddling around with the idea for your art project and then join us this spring as we host fiddlers and fiddle activities, fern walks and fern printing. Check our website in March for more information.



Art For Everyone

At our **Annual Meeting** in November MAC approved our new structure, which includes an Executive Board of Directors, an Advisory Council, and an Administrative Coordinator. This restructuring was a result of the strategic planning process made possible by a grant from the Maine Community Foundation. Funding from the Town Of Bowdoinham has enable MAC to hire a part time Administrative Coordinator.

Peggy Muir, Patti Melander, Mark Ireland and Matt Ahlers are current members of the Advisory Council. Additional members are welcome at any time. This group will continue collaborations with organizations and individuals in planning events and exhibits.

Lee Parker, Forrest Lowe, Wendy Rose and Carter Smith were elected to the Executive Board. The Board will meet 4 or more times during the year with a focus on Message (PR), Management (Policy) and Money (Fund Raising). The Board would like to expand to 7 members. If you are interested please contact Lee Parker at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com or call 310-5002 and leave a message.

GROW THOSE BEARDS!

Maine Facial Hair Club will once again sponsor the our Best Beard Contest. Come join the fun and carry on the tradition!

Dog Licenses Due

State Law requires all dogs six months and older to be licensed by January 1st, however there is a grace period of January 31st to before a late fee is incurred.

What is the fee?

Neutered/Spayed Dog - \$6.00
Not Neutered Dog - \$11.00

After January 31st there is a \$25.00 late fee.

What do I need?

A copy of a current rabies certificate and a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the dog has been neutered or incapable of producing young.

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To help, please contact Betsy Steen bayviewess@comcast.net or come to Coombs on a Tuesday to see what we have.

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, 13 School Street on Tuesdays, 10am-12pm & 2-5pm

Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

We had a very successful November **Celebration of Shipbuilding & Seafaring in Bowdoinham** with over 100 visitors. Thank you to Brad Blake, Don & Billie Oakes and Rick Ellis for loaning us their shipbuilding and sailmaking tools. And to Cathy Reynolds who spotted at the Recycling Barn a 1815 edition of Blunt's American Coast Pilot that belonged to Bowdoinham's Capt. Humphrey Purington and saved it for us!

The interior of the **Meeting House** is finished! We celebrated with a wonderful 'launching party' to end our activities for 2014.

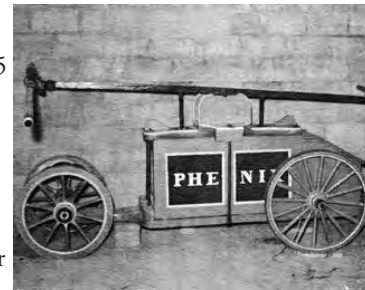
A Huge Thank You to all who donated time, money and wonderful objects either for the BHS collection or for the **Yard Sale**. You are far too many to list here, but know that every gift is appreciated.

We will be starting 2015 with our **Annual Meeting** on January 23rd at 7pm in the Kendall Room, 13 School St. Captain James Kirk of the USS Zumwalt will join us to give a presentation on the amazing USS Zumwalt.

We will finish 2015 with a November show on the **History of Photography**.

We will featured the 150+ glass negatives created by Bainbridge Porter Brown from about 1860 to 1878 that were donated by Lee and Shirley Tracy. Jane Page Conway has taken on the task of studying, cleaning, scanning and printing these wonderful images. If you are interested in helping with this event, please let us know.

Our project for 2015 will be to save the **Phenix!** The Phenix was built in 1798,



the year after its sister tub, the Fountain. While, the Fountain now belongs to The Henry

Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, the Phenix (or what is left of her) belongs to Bowdoinham. Please help us save the Phenix for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. If you are interested in helping save the Phenix, please contact Betsy Steen at bayviewess@comcast.net. There will be many different tasks, from fundraising to restoration, please help!

*Bowdoinham Historical Society:
Another Way to Recycle!*



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News from the Library

By Kate Cutko

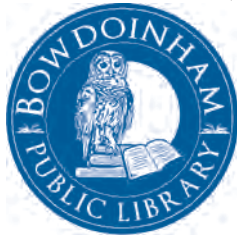
On Thursday, January 22nd, at 7pm, the Bowdoinham Public Library will host Maine author and beer blogger Josh Christie for a two-part book talk and beer tasting. The free public event will be held at the Old Goat in Richmond on the second floor. Christie will be speaking about his book, *Maine Beer: Brewing in Vacationland*. The evening will then continue with a beer tasting.

Maine Beer: Brewing in Vacationland combines a history of early brewing in Maine with a guide to every brewery to open in the state since the resurgence of the Maine craft beer industry in the 1980s. The book includes profiles of each brewery and dozens of historical and current images chronicling Maine's dynamic craft beer culture, from early pioneers like D.L. Geary to up and coming local crafters like Lewiston-based Baxter Brewing Co.

Josh Christie's writing has appeared in print in the Portland Phoenix, the Maine Sunday Telegram and other publications and online as a featured columnist at



RateBeer.com. He lives in Yarmouth, Maine, with his wife, cat and steadily growing beer cellar.



Scholarships Available

By Jill Hooper

The Maine Community Foundation's Richard Ferrier Scholarship offers financial assistance to Bowdoinham residents between the ages of 13 and 18 (as of April 1, 2015), to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment. Eligible applicants must be residents of Bowdoinham who clearly demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Preference is for applicants who have resided in Bowdoinham for at least one year. Awards are not retroactive.

Last year, the committee awarded \$11,635 to 19 students who used the funds to participate in activities including sports camps, pre-college programs, specialized dance instruction, and Olympic training teams.

The application deadline for the Ferrier Scholarship is April 1, 2015. Paper applications are available at the Bowdoinham Town Office and the Bowdoinham Public Library, and on the Maine Community Foundation website, www.mainecef.org. The Ferrier application will not be available as an online application for 2015. Please contact committee member Jill Hooper (hoopersj@comcast.net), or Liz Fickett at Maine Community Foundation (efickett@mainecf.org) if you have any questions.

News from Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

By Dup Crosson

This year's Annual Meeting and Potluck will have a special ring to it as we celebrate our 40th anniversary protecting, preserving, and improving Merrymeeting Bay! Bring a dish and join your fellow supporters at 6:00pm on January 14th at Bowdoin College's Cram Alumni Hall, 86 Federal Street in Brunswick. After a brief business meeting and elections, historian Jay Robbins will give a multimedia presentation entitled Steve Powell's World of Wildlife: In Film & Photo as part of our ongoing Winter Speaker Series. Steve Powell served as the local Zone Biologist for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game (now IF&W) and eventually rose to oversee all the Wildlife Management Areas in Maine. He hunted with Governor Muskie and entertained thousands at sportsman's shows. A trapper and true outdoorsman, Steve lived in a world of wildlife. In 1968 Steve retired from State service to live out the rest of his life on Green Point Farm in Dresden. Thankfully, Steve left behind over 11 hours of silent film and over 600 still images documenting his variety of experiences. His nephew Bob Gleason turned these films, photos, and boxes of files over to Dr. Charles Burden and Jay Robbins in 2012 for their preservation and eventual placement with the State Archives.

Please contact us at fomb@comcast.net or 666-1118 for more information.

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

News from BCDI

By David Whittlesey

Between mid-October and the end of November, BCDI paid out returns on two investments in the Community Development Loan Program. Left Field Farm, which had received funding to purchase a Rimol greenhouse for its operation on the Brown's Point Road, completed payment several weeks ahead of the date due. Sean Hagan, Left Field's farmer/owner had received a first loan back in October 2012, and rolled the balance forward in January 2014 to secure a supplemental loan for the new greenhouse. If you haven't yet done so, check out Left Field Farm's CSA options for the coming year at leftfieldmaine.com!

Robin Riendeau of Banana Banners, who received a loan to replace the roof

overhead in October 2013, has been reimbursing the loan on a monthly basis. With half of the loan repaid, the BCDI Board decided to return the already reimbursed



capital to investors rather than have it sit idle. Robin reports that with the interior now dry, she has been able to start some long overdue improvements and repairs, and that the business had a great year. You can visit Banana Banner's website at www.ahpeel.com.

Bob Kane, and Bob Kane Wood Products worked with BCDI to restructure the

repayment plan on the loan he received in late March 2013, and has now repaid approximately two-thirds of the loan, with the balance due by the end of April 2015. If you have a need for custom wood pieces, boards or firewood, give Bob a call at 666-3668.

Now is the time to join BCDI for 2015! The Tax Deductible annual Membership fee helps to support BCDI's operational costs, along with the allocation from the Town of Bowdoinham, several small grants and the fee/interest on processed loans. Under the rules of the State Securities Administration, Membership in BCDI is required for participation in the loan/investment process. For more information, please visit the BCDI website at www.bcdi.us/membership. Currently in 2014 BCDI has roughly 80 Members, and we would love to reach 100 in 2015!

News from Long Branch

By John Favreau

We at Long Branch are continuing to streamline our business and focus on what we do best. As of this printing, John Cote will have opened his new store at 20 Main Street, the Bowdoinham Trading Company. Along with his furniture and other varied merchandise, he will be selling fresh local eggs, animal feed, and coffee. Check it out!

That puts Long Branch School operations solely across the street in our workshop at 25 Main Street. We will hold classes there, but we will also continue to use the back room upstairs at 20 Main Street for our winter and spring courses while we do further renovations to the shop.

Our first Tiny Home was completed and delivered in November. The folks at Stepping Stone were extremely happy with the finished product, and it is now in use helping folks in need of transitional housing in Damariscotta. We hope to build more of these homes for Stepping Stone in the future.

Our next "home" will begin construction in late January. The reason for the quotes is that this structure will be used as a wood turning shop for its owner rather than a home to live in. It will be an 8 1/2' by 18' design, and it will be extremely helpful as a model for future tiny homes of a similar size. We also have a third home in the design phase for which we plan to optimize the use of re-clamed materials. That along with labor from the owner should assist in keeping the cost down significantly. Our plan is to have this home completed in early summer. Will yours be next? Don't delay in getting



Left to Right: Bill and Barbara Howlett, Ken and Lonnie Anderson and Pete Feeney

in touch with us to begin your design process.

Upcoming Classes

- Introduction to Wood Carving
- Fundamentals of Cheese Making
- Complete 8-week Beekeeping Course
- Wood Carving – The Complete Series
- Knife and Tool Sharpening
- Backyard Poultry
- Wild Food Foraging Walk
- Introduction to Timber Framing
- Introduction to Chair Caning
- Create Your Canvas Floor Cloth
- Felt Making & Mixed Media Techniques
- Create Your Own Rag Rug
- Introduction to Cordwood Masonry
- Friday Night at the Forge
- Got Your Goat?
- Beginning Cold Process Soap Making
- Advanced Cold Process Soap Making
- Lotions, Chapstick & Deodorants



For more information, please visit our website at longbranchschool.com.

Cub Scout News

By Cathy Curtis

This fall Pack 699 has been busy with popcorn sales, food drives, bottle drives, hikes and achievements. We have 29 cubs participating this year. Our first Pack meeting included a hike at the Cathance trails in Topsham and pumpkin carving. In November we visited the State House and had a guided tour by Representative Seth Berry. (Thank you, Seth!) The boys were able to debate bills about money for college and gum chewing in schools. Individual dens built bird houses; went on a historical tour of downtown Bowdoinham (Thank you, Lance Libby); participated in Webelos Woods Weekend at Camp Gustin, in Sabattus, where the Webelos constructed a catapult to attack a structure built by the Boy Scouts; new Tigers and cubs earned their Bobcat Badge, and the Webelos have been working on their Fitness and Citizen activity badges. Thank you to all those who support our fundraising efforts-our goal is to help offset summer camp fees to allow every cub to attend summer camp.

If you are interested in joining Scouting, please contact Athena Mann at amanncspack699@yahoo.com.



Boy Scout News

By Athena Mann

Troop 699 is Advancing! At our Fall, Court of Honor, all of our Scouts advanced in Rank. Adam Dustin and Michael Czerwinski are Tenderfoot Scouts, Austin Berry and Mason Blodgett have made Second Class Scout, and Richard Mann is now a Life Scout. We would like to thank those in our community who were able to donate to our Scouting for Food drive, to benefit our own, Bowdoinham Food Pantry, and those who purchased popcorn or made donations to our Troop during the Trail's-end fundraiser. The Troop will be winter camping in January at Camp William Hinds, in Raymond. The goal will be to build structures to survive outside, overnight in harsh conditions, while having the option of a warm cabin close by. While Scouting is all about teaching skills of being prepared for anything, we strive to enjoy the journey.

Bowdoinham Scouts have a bottle and can drop box, just below the Town Landing Restaurant, across from the Merrymeeting Arts Center building. If you would like to donate to the Scout programs in Bowdoinham this is a great way to help. The Scouts and their families will do their best to maintain the box

throughout the winter, by shoveling out after each storm. We also have an account at Bootleggars in Topsham, if you would like to drop your donations off there. Just let the staff know that you would like to make donations to Troop 699, Bowdoinham, and they'll take care of counting and



putting your donations on our account. As the Troop is just getting up and running again, we truly appreciate all your help in making it possible for us to purchase needed supplies.

If you are interested in joining Boy Scouts, please contact Dave Mann, Scoutmaster, at 837-4270 or dmann88napa@gmail.com.

Home Heating Assistance

Winter is here and the Heating Assistance Program needs your help. This program is funded entirely from private and business donations as well as fundraising efforts, since it began in 2008. Please consider making a donation, to help your neighbors stay warm this winter.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Town Office at 13 School Street. For more information, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531.

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News from Committee on Aging

By Patricia Oh

Are you active enough to stay healthy? Activity is important, especially during the long winter months. Regular moderate exercise and socializing with friends and neighbors can add years to our lives and—more importantly-- add quality to our years. The Advisory Committee on Aging (COA) is looking forward to seeing you at some of these activities that will help you beat the “winter blahs”.

The Bridge group will meet on Mondays at 10:00am in the Graduate Room at the Town Office. All players are welcome. If you haven't played for years and want to get back into the game, this is a perfect opportunity. If you play and want to know what to do after your first bid or to answer your partner, this is for you. If you have never played Bridge, or only played a little, and are interested in lessons for first time players, call the Town Office and leave a message on the Committee on Aging line (666-5531, ext. 110). We will contact you when there is enough interest to start lessons again.

The Shipmates Senior Club meets on Thursdays in the basement of the Second Baptist Church from 10:00am-1:00pm. Come for coffee, cribbage lessons, discus-

sions of current events, crafting (learning, teaching, and shared craft time), luncheons, games, movies, and special events.

Would you like a day out but would rather not drive in the winter weather? The Shipmates planning committee has scheduled trips to exciting destinations! Prior trips have included the ELMS puzzle factory, Victoria Mansion, and a cruise to Bailey Island. Carpooling is encouraged for those who want to share a ride. For more information about upcoming activities or trips, please check the COA Activity and Resource list.

Kate Cutko and the Bowdoinham Public Library offer a number of ways to keep minds stimulated during the winter months. The Loose Ladies Book Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00pm to discuss a book or author chosen by the group. If you are interested in attending or need a ride to come to a meeting, call the library. The Loose Ladies are always looking for new members!

In the winter months, the steps leading to the library can be difficult to navigate. There is a ramp in back of the Coombs building to access the second floor that is maintained during the winter months. To access the ramp, drive to the right-hand side of the Coombs building. There is space for one car near the ramp. At the top of the ramp, next to the door, is a doorbell that rings in the library. Kate or one of her volunteers will open the door

for you if it is locked.

For homebound residents, one of the Bowdoinham library volunteers can deliver library materials to your door. Print books, DVDs and Audio Books can be borrowed by people who are not able to make it to the library. For more information, call Kate Cutko at the Bowdoinham Library (207-666-8405).

Full information about COA-sponsored activities can be found in the COA Activity and Resource List available at the Town Landing, Bowdoinham Library, and Town Office or, for download, on the Town of Bowdoinham's website (www.bowdoinham.com). Contact Patricia Oh, Coordinator of Older Adult Services (phone: 666-5531, ext. 110; email: poh@bowdoinham.com), if you would like a copy emailed or mailed to you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Coats for Seniors

Thank you to all of you who donated a cozy winter jacket to the Coats for Seniors program! We received 53 coats as well as some other items—including scarves, gloves, cleats, and a quilt—to help keep winter cold at bay. If you know of an older adult who needs a coat, please contact Patricia Oh, Coordinator of Older Adult Services (phone: 207-666-5531, ext. 110; email: p.oh@bowdoinham.com).

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Exercise Opportunities

By Lisa West & Patricia Oh

Do you want to start the New Year by trying a new exercise program? Would you like to feel fitter and healthier this year? If so, the Bowdoinham Recreation Department and Advisory Committee on Aging (COA) would like to tell you about a few opportunities that are available.

The Committee on Aging-sponsored tai chi practice group will meet in the basement of the Second Baptist Church at 9:00am on Thursdays. There is no cost to participate in the class. The group welcomes people who are new to tai chi and those who have taken it in the past.

For those who want to explore the winter landscape, snowshoeing will be offered by Betty DeForeest and Martha Cushing. For more information about snowshoeing or about any of the exercise opportunities, classes, and activities sponsored by COA, please check the COA Activity and Resource List or contact Patricia Oh, Coordinator of Older Adult Services (phone: 666-5531, ext. 110; email: p.oh@bowdoinham.com).

If you like to dance, you will love Zumba! Join Stephanie Dustin in the basement of the Second Baptist Church for Zumba Gold (9:00-9:45am, Saturday) or Zumba Tone (5:00-5:45pm, Monday).

Both classes offer a fun workout that will melt away the pounds, increase flexibility, and improve balance. Zumba Gold is for active older adults who want a low impact aerobic workout. Zumba Tone is designed for people at all levels of physical fitness who want to build strength. Both programs features longer warm ups and cool downs to allow participants to work on balance, flexibility, and cardiovascular strength. The cost of each class is \$5.00, \$2.00 of which Stephanie donates back to the community.

Additional exercise opportunities are available through the Silver Sneakers program hosted at the Cathance Fitness Center, on Main Street in Bowdoin, Maine. Silver Sneakers is a national program of exercises specifically designed for older adults. The Cathance Fitness Center offers Silver Sneakers Classic and Silver Sneakers Yoga. Silver Sneaker Classic is a moderate exercise program class designed to increase strength, range of movement, agility, balance and coordination. Silver Sneaker Yoga is designed to challenge you physically and mentally with simple and safe yoga exercises using a chair for support to increase flexibility. People with all levels of exercise experience and physical fitness are welcome. Silver Sneaker classes are free if your Medicare supplemental insurance policy includes the Silver Sneaker benefit. To find out if your insurance covers Silver Sneakers, contact your insurance

company. The cost is \$2.00/class for all others. Call (207) 666-3463 for more information about any of the Silver Sneaker classes.

With all of the exercise programs available, there is no excuse for not trying something fun and enjoy the benefits of a fitter and healthier you in 2015!

Bowdoinham Food Pantry

Open Fridays 3-6pm, 9 Main Street

A heartfelt "Thank You" to ALL of the amazing people in this town that have contributed in one way or another to the Bowdoinham Food Pantry. It's been said before, but worth repeating. We truly live in an amazing community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness and support! We have been able to help so many families and due to your kindness.

Want to Donate? Checks can be made out to Bowdoinham Food Pantry, P.O. Box 246, Bowdoinham, ME 04008. Have donations to drop off? They can be delivered to the pantry, Town Office or Town Landing, during normal business hours!

For more information, visit our Facebook page or contact us at 751-0080 or bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com.

We are always looking for more volunteers!

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Plumbing Tip *Toilet Bowl Cleaning*

A running toilet can be costly in the summer months but during the winter it can cause a real disaster. It is possible that a small trickle of water from the toilet running through the drain could build up and freeze, potentially freezing the whole house drain. Actually, the same goes for a dripping faucet. To determine if your toilet is running pour a small amount of food coloring in the toilet tank and wait about half an hour. If you see colored water in the bowl you need to fix the toilet. *Reminder: If you haven't done so already take the hose off your outside faucet!*

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

January

1st
Town Office Closed

14th
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay's
Annual Meeting, 6pm
Cram Alumni Hall, Bowdoin College

19th
Town Office Closed

22nd
Author Talk & Beer Tasting, 7pm
Old Goat, Richmond

23rd
Bowdoinham Historical Society's
Annual Meeting, 7pm
Kendall Meeting Room

24th
Bean Supper, 4-6pm
Bowdoinham Fire Station

February

7th
Ice & Smelt Festival

16th
Town Office Closed

21st
Bean Supper, 4-6pm
Bowdoinham Fire Station

25th
Book Discussion, 7pm
Bowdoinham Public Library

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

Biking, Walking, Paddling
4th Monday of Month at 6:30pm

Committee on Aging
1st & 3rd Fridays of Month at 3:00pm

Community Development Advisory Committee
2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

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

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