



Friends of Taunton Bay

Newsletter

No. 39

Keeping an eye on the bay

Summer 2010

Exciting Summer Programs set for Taunton Bay Education Center

By Beverly Johnston

The Taunton Bay Education Center (TBEC) will be open to the public on Saturdays in July and August from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with hands-on displays of historical items, lobster and clam harvesting equipment, horseshoe crab shells and photographs of the flora and fauna of the Bay. Other area resources such as MERI, the Abbe Museum and Rock and Art Shop educator Tony Sohns will participate in lively programs for adults and families and two three-day camps for children.

(See details about programs and registration in the Newsletter insert.)

Camp for students in grades K-2 will be from 9:30-noon on July 13 - 15. Camp for students in grades 3-6 will be from 9:30-noon on July 20 - 22. The focus of each camp will be the Native Tribes of coastal Maine and their use of and preservation of our coastal waters. Customized environmental watershed education, native artists and music and displays will be a part of each camp's programming.

The TBEC will also be hosting three Saturday family events that will have a similar theme. The July dates are July 10 and July 31 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Special activities, music, art and refreshments will provide families and interested individuals with an



Photo by Beverly Johnston

Five summer campers "armed" with touch tank starfish.

opportunity to visit TBEC and learn some new things about our bay and its history. The August program will be at Tidal Falls on August 21 from 3 – 5 p.m. and will offer a touch tank, Abbe Museum display, and other activities.

Other TBEC summer programs include 7:00 p.m. Friday evening lectures organized by our FTB board member and award winning naturalist/environmentalist, Steve Perrin. Steve has recruited speakers on a number of Taunton Bay-relevant topics ranging from ecologically sound “Yardscaping” to granite quarrying in the 1800s.

For over twenty years, the Friends of Taunton Bay have been working to preserve and protect one of downeast Maine's most important and productive estuaries. With the support of a 2007 Maine Community Foundation Grant, the FTB expanded its mission by opening the Taunton Bay Education Center on Route One in Hancock, ME where this summer the Center a wealth and breadth of exciting and educational programs about various aspects of Taunton Bay will be presented.

More information on the center is available at www.friendsoftauntonbay.org. Camp registration is available on-line at <http://group.ps/tauntonbay>

Potential Over-harvesting Leads to Multi-Town Shellfish Ordinance

By Frank Dorsey

When red tides such as those occurring in the past several years closed most clam flats except those in Taunton Bay, clambers with valid licenses from any part of Maine could harvest in the Bay, and many did. In the absence of any local shellfish ordinances and in response to that threat of over-harvesting by the out-of-area clambers, Joe Porada of Franklin and other local harvesters and dealers drafted a seven-town shellfish ordinance through months of work. All of Taunton Bay and parts of Frenchman Bay will be covered by common rules when all seven towns approve the ordinance. Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento and Sullivan had approved the ordinance, when Trenton voted approval on May 22. The mission statement of the ordinance is:

“These communities shall act collaboratively as stewards to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well being of the Greater Frenchman Bay Region and to insure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for



Photo by Claudette Werner

Two Partridges in a pear tree.

those who make their living on the tide.”

The ordinance provides for resident and non-resident recreational licenses with limits of “not more than one peck of shellfish or three bushels of ‘hen’ or ‘surf’ clams in any one day for use of himself and his family” and for resident and non-resident commercial licenses. Fees for each type of license, numbers and methods of allocating licenses to non-residents, and hours and quantities of harvest will be proposed in an Annual Shellfish Management Plan submitted each January by a Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee composed of harvesters from each town. The plan must then be approved by a Municipal Joint Board representing each town’s governing body and by the Department of Marine Resources. The fees collected will support the work of the Conservation Committee and fund a warden to monitor compliance with the ordinance. Fees will be waived for recreational licenses for individuals 65 years or older and 12 years or younger.

Porada reports that there may still be some minor changes to the application forms. See the complete Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Ordinance, fee schedule and application forms at www.lamoine-me.gov/Shellfish/DraftOrdinance.pdf

Steve Perrin Wins Art Longard Volunteer Award

An Interview with Steve Perrin

By Steve Perrin

In the tradition of those knowing most about a topic being drafted to write it up for the newsletter, the FTB Executive Committee asked me to give an account of my recent volunteer award from



Photo by Claudette Werner

Group of Canada Geese.

the Gulf of Maine Council. This put me in a bind because my mother, who grew up in North Sullivan, often issued the dictum, “Don’t be conspicuous!” in light of the New England belief that you’ll live longer if you don’t draw attention to yourself or your family. Writing myself up seems an exercise in immodesty. My idea in this piece is to tackle the assignment by interviewing myself as impartially as I can.

Question: Do you feel uncomfortable tooting your own horn?

Answer: Very. I’d feel uncomfortable even having a horn to toot.

Q. What is the award you recently received?

A. The Art Longard Volunteer Award.

Q. From?

A. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

Q. Who is Art Longard?

A. A founding member of the Gulf of Maine Council from Nova Scotia, and in 1998, first recipient of an award for dedication and commitment to collaborative management of the Gulf of Maine on an ecosystem basis, and his belief in citizen volunteerism on behalf of sustainability of natural resources.

Q. Does that description apply to you?

A. I work along similar lines. Since I don’t get paid, that qualifies me as a volunteer. I don’t think about how I am classified, I just do the work.

Q. Who gave you the award?

A. Michael J. Walls, Chair of the Council.

Q. Did he send it to you, or did you meet him in

person?

A. The Council held an awards reception in Portsmouth on December 9th, 2009. I drove down for the occasion.

Q. He physically handed it to you?

A. He did.

Q. Were you the only recipient?

A. Of the Art Longard memorial Volunteer Award, yes, only one is given each year. There were a great many other awards to two individuals or groups in each state or province around the Gulf.

Q. Did anyone else from Maine receive an award?

A. Yes, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve received a Visionary Award, among two similar awards made in each state or province around the Gulf of Maine .

Q. How did you come to receive the award?

A. I was nominated by John Sowles and Slade Moore, who both worked at DMR at the time of the nomination. Neither was able to attend the ceremony, but both sent e-mail messages which were read at the reception. John said of me, “I see sparkle still in his eyes, a deep passion for the natural world, and a zest for learning and growing.” Slade said in part, “The past nine years have provided me with many, many reasons to wish this esteemed award on Steve. As a volunteer, his passion and indefatigable nature never failed to astound me. I often think of him in pictures . . . ,” –in my boat; tending him as he dived beneath the ice on Taunton Bay; listening to others; emphasizing ecological truths.

Q. Indefatigable?

A. Slade’s word, not mine.

Q. Sounds vague. What did you actually do?

A. In essence, I didn’t get paid for doing what I did, and still do—for being myself. I have a plaque to show for my efforts. I’ve moved up in the world. Now I’m a professional volunteer.

Q. Did you make an acceptance speech, Like Obama in Oslo?

A. I had about two minutes to accept the award. I thanked John and Slade for nominating me, and Michael Walls who acted on behalf of the Council.

Correction:

In the Fall 2009 Newsletter an eagle photograph submitted by Claudette and Scott Werner was incorrectly attributed to someone else.

During my remarks, I held up the cover of a recent issue of the *Christian Science Monitor* showing four city centers—Houston, Seattle, San Diego, and Boston. I said I was alarmed to think of all the able-bodied workers sitting facing computers in their cubicles, learning about the world second-hand through words and pictures, reducing the natural world to hearsay. With more than fifty percent of Americans now living and working in such places, I am anxious about our growing disconnect with the natural systems which support us. I said my philosophy was simple: I put my body where my values are, because that's the only way I can engage my environment in an ongoing conversation. If I don't interact with Taunton Bay—the place I love most on this Earth—who will do it for me?

Q. Now you're the one asking questions.

A. Always. That's the kind of person I am. It's the only way I know of coming to understand how the world works. And if we don't know that, how can we adjust our behavior when the world is broken, as it now is in so many places?

Q. You actually said that?

A. That's the gist of my two minutes, yes.

Q. You're out to heal the world?

A. At least to live on sustainable terms with it, doing as little damage as I can in the course of my activities. I want succeeding generations to enjoy this place as much as I do.

Q. O.K., I think I've got it. I'll let you go now.

A. Thank you.

Friends of Taunton Bay: An Episodic History

By Steve Perrin

Friends of Taunton Bay (FTB) is twenty years old this year. Founded in 1990, the group has been around long enough to interact with the natural history of the bay itself and it has a prehistory going back over ten years before its formal organization.

Half-tide dam proposal, 1966. Few today recall the plan to build a half-tide dam across Taunton River. The scheme was to give boaters dependable access to the bay, and perhaps encourage shoreline development by raising the height of low tide so shorefront property wouldn't face upon mudflats. In 1966, Edward C. Jordan, Inc., issued a "Desirability Study: Taunton River Tidal Dam at



Photo by Slade Moore

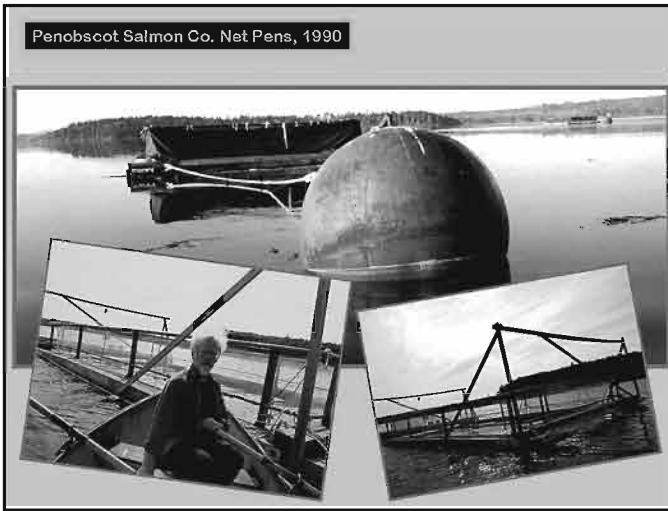
Juvenile fish by Slade Moore for the Taunton Bay Assessment, 2004.

Hancock and Sullivan, Maine.” In summary:

The intention of this report is to examine the potential for construction of a dam and spillway at Sullivan Falls in order to create a recreational water body in Taunton Bay by raising the water level sufficiently to provide for safe boating. The dam is to be located at an elevation of 6.5 feet above mean low water. . . . Such a structure would maintain a water level between 7.75 to 8.75 feet above mean low water.

To some, it seemed a good idea at the time, turning the bay into a recreational lake similar to Molasses Pond. At the hearing to consider the matter, only two people opposed the dam, Dennis Vibert, long a potter in Sullivan, and (via letter) Margaret Henrichsen, minister of local churches and author of *Seven Steeples*. The rest of the crowd was resoundingly in favor. In the end, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife advised against damming the bay on ecological grounds. The upshot was to raise the consciousness of everyone in the area to what might happen if nature were turned on its head.

Taunton Bay Resource Assessment, 1979. The Town of Franklin used a Coastal Program grant from the State Planning Office to contract with the Hancock County Planning Commission to do an assessment of natural resources in Taunton Bay. Jim Haskell Jr., then Executive Director of HCPC, issued the project report (typed by Irene Obermann) in October 1979. It is an impressive summary of



Penobscot Salmon Co. Net Pens, 1990

Photo by Steve Perrin

Net pens, 1990: The figure is my brother Peter Perrin.

what was known at the time about the history of the region, and the natural and human environments of the bay. Noteworthy recommendations include: 1) A shellfish ordinance governing the harvesting, sale, size, licenses for digging, etc. should be implemented; 2) A feasibility study “to discuss the realities of” tidal power generation “somewhere in the bay;” and 3) A “Taunton Bay Board . . . with a comprehensive viewpoint . . . to examine decisions affecting the Bay in a total environment rather than town by town.”

Ecological Characterization, 1980. The following year, 1980, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published *An Ecological Characterization of Coastal Maine* by Stewart Fefer and Patricia Schettig, a six-volume compendium detailing the natural species and processes that bring the rocky-gravelly-sandy shores of Maine to life.

Schoodic Overlook, 1997. The Patten Corporation sent its agents to rural Maine in the mid-1980s, scouting for cheap land to subdivide and sell at a high profit. They paid “finders fees” to local residents who would point them toward a good deal. Suspicious of the stock market, others invested in land deals, creating a brief boom in real estate. Local citizens caught the fever and decided they could beat Patten at its own game. On Easter Sunday, 1987, I rowed across the bay to check out plumes of smoke that looked much like a line of slash piles burning to make way for a new road. What I found was thirty-four-lot Schoodic Overlook subdivision being translated from the drawing board to the Hancock shore of Taunton Bay.

What caught my attention was the roadway run-

ning directly beneath one of two eagle nests on the property. With Pat Flagg, I opposed the subdivision in an extended hearing before the planning board. Everyone said there was no use fighting city hall. But I put my body between the developers and the eagles—and much to everyone’s surprise, we won the case—with a lot of help from a pro bono lawyer and The Nature Conservancy—and much of the land was transferred to the state in the first Land for Maine’s Future acquisition, the developer receiving a no-interest loan to purchase developable land in a location that didn’t compromise eagle breeding habitat.

That August, I set up a meeting in Hancock to see if the public was ready to form a land trust in the area, and received an enthusiastic response in the affirmative. At the organizational meeting, Oliver Crosby wanted to name it Frenchman Bay Conservancy, a name that has stuck to this day.

Net pen surprise, 1990. The Penobscot Salmon Company was looking to develop an aquaculture facility in the bay with the notion of getting farm-fed Atlantic salmon to market in two years instead of the usual three. But they didn’t want to draw attention to their plans so conducted a stealth operation below the public’s and my (I had a reputation for combating development) awareness. The first thing most people knew, there were crude net pens on the bay. Which seemed odd since Atlantic salmon are a North Atlantic species, and the waters of Taunton Bay are far warmer than they would be accustomed to. Which, it turned out, was precisely the point. The operations manager thought he could count on these warmer waters to speed the growth of the salmon in those pens. Unfortunately, his dream didn’t come true; fish died in the summer heat at the rate of 700 a day in each pen, and he had to send in divers to retrieve their carcasses. In the meantime, concerned citizens who’d been left out of the loop formed Friends of Taunton Bay with a mission “to protect the bay from all forms of degradation.” Retired minister Bob Bonthius was elected president; until I moved to Bar Harbor, I was vice-president.

Inventory, 1991. By July 1991, members of FTB had researched, written, illustrated, and published an inventory of the scenic, historic, and natural features of Taunton Bay to make clear the significance of the bay to the surrounding community. “Not just to the human community, but to the universe of plants, animals, algae, fungi, and even

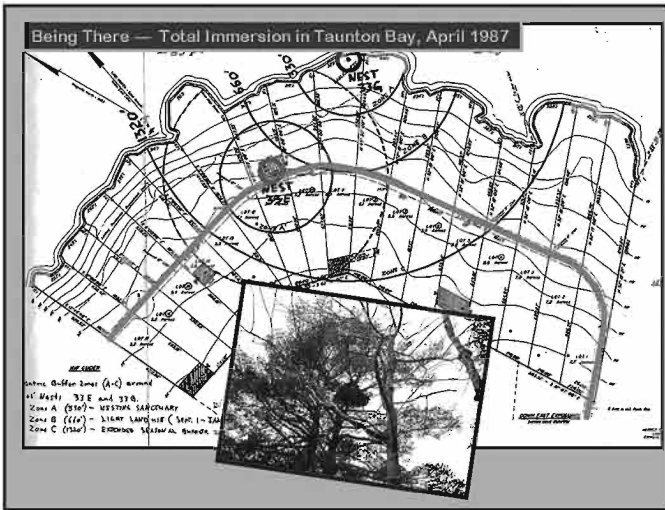


Photo by Steve Perrin
Schoodic Overlook eagle nest, 1987

microbes whose lives interact with one another in response to the natural conditions that prevail in the region.” A newsletter and shorelands handbook followed to promote stewardship among landowners, Mary Lou Barker took samples for water-quality testing, and a series of aerial overflights provided a record of eelgrass in the bay at low tide.

Taunton Bay Shorelands Handbook, 1992 (revised 1994, 1999). To develop a sense of stewardship among residents and vacationers around the bay, FTB issued a free guide to shoreland living, including sections on what a watershed is, laws affecting shorefront property, shoreland zoning requirements, tips on managing septic fields, trash disposal, recycling, hazardous wastes, and a list of birds to look for around the bay. Distribution to those on the bay proved to be a problem, particularly to prospective and recent arrivals. An updated revision is in the planning stage.

University of Maine establishes UMCCAR, 1999. The University of Maine bought the aquaculture facility developed by Penobscot Salmon Company in 1999, and converted it to a Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research the following year. A land-based facility, the center draws marine water from the bay, and fresh water from wells on the property. Manager Nick Brown oversees operations for rearing halibut, urchins, seaweed, marine worms, among other species. In 2008, the USDA opened a Saltwater Aquaculture Research Station on 25 acres abutting the UM property on the north for rearing disease-resistant Atlantic salmon.

New Bridge, 2000. Built 1923-1926, the

open-mesh decked “Singing Bridge” was replaced by a higher concrete structure in 2000. Then FTB President Charlie Hodgson was concerned that the new bridge provided ten-feet more clearance than the old one, which would allow bigger boats rigged for mussel dragging to harvest above the bridge. He feared this would put the bay’s eelgrass at risk. So he mounted a campaign to protect eelgrass by having the state impose a moratorium on dragging. A hearing on the matter was held in Augusta by the Joint Marine Resources Committee, and they voted to support the moratorium. Legislators added a sunset provision that would go into effect after five years, with a provision that the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) would assess the relation between eelgrass and mussels in the bay during the interim, issuing a report to the committee in January 2004 so it could decide whether or not to extend the moratorium.



Photo by Claudette Werner
Chickadee in the feeder.

Horseshoe Crab Tagging Study, 2001 (ongoing). With a crew of dedicated volunteers, Sue Schaller began a study of horseshoe crabs in Hog Bay in 2001, sexing, sizing, and tagging each crab observed during the breeding season with a unique identification number. She has issued annual reports on the data gathered each succeeding year (of which 2010 is the tenth), looking for correlations between daily numbers of breeding crabs, water temperature, salinity, tide height, and phase of the moon. As far as we know, this is the only study of Atlantic horseshoe

crabs conducted on an undisturbed native population. Because egg-bearing female crabs are preferred by both predators (for their extra protein) and harvesters in other states (who sell them to eel and conch fishers), the male-to-female ratio is comparatively low at 2:1 in Hog Bay, while it can run as high as 9:1 in bays on Cape Cod and elsewhere. Researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey determined that Hog Bay crabs are more genetically remote from mainstream crabs on the East Coast than any other localized population. To prevent decimation of Maine crabs, the state has made it illegal to possess horseshoe crabs in Maine between May and October, inclusively.

Taunton Bay Assessment, 2002-2004. As mandated by the dragging moratorium legislation, MDMR conducted an assessment of the bay that included seabed mapping, dragging history, intertidal characterization, eelgrass mapping, horseshoe crab movement tracking, juvenile fish inventory in eelgrass, and a shallow subtidal mussel-dragging experiment. With considerable assistance, Slade Moore of DMR did the bulk of the assessment. I spent two years helping him track sonar-transmitter-bearing horseshoe crabs with a hydrophone from a motor boat in both Hog and Egypt Bays. We found that horseshoe crabs stay in the bay year-round, hibernating in the mud instead of exiting the bay as we thought they did. The assessment included two important recommendations: 1) Continue the prohibition on unrestricted bottom dragging, and 2) Develop a science-based comprehensive resource management plan for Taunton Bay.

Taunton Bay Oyster Company sets up in the bay, 2005. Mike Briggs received a lease for an oyster nursery in Hog Bay, together with grow-out sites in the braided channel south of Dwelley Point. I initially thought oysters might spread to nearby waters, but monitoring eight sites with Mike on an annual basis, he and I have yet to find any such population



Photo by Claudette Werner
A roosting Eagle.

of nonnative shellfish. Mike is currently expanding his operation to include a lease site in the channel south of Burying Island. Sales to restaurants have been good, and Mike gets additional satisfaction seeing sandpipers loafing on his nursery cages at high tide, herring feeding on algae in the waters below.

Pilot Project in Bay Management, 2005-2006. In 2004 FTB submitted a proposal for a pilot project in local bay management to the State Planning Office. As a result, FTB was one of two groups in the state to receive an award of \$20,000 in support of such a project. The work was divided among five working groups (Indicators Monitoring, Mapping, Economic Analysis, Governance, and Outreach), together with a Coordinating Committee. The limited resources available to our small, local group were taxed to the utmost, but we pulled together in the end and issued an impressive final report in June 2006. The report included four principles of coastal-use management: 1) Sustainability of public trust resources for the long-term benefit of all citizens, 2) Ecosystem-based management, 3) Information-rich management based on monitoring, research, and observation, and 4) Integrated land-and-water-use management throughout watersheds and their receiving waters.

Mudflat Management Study, 2006-2007. Following through with the principles derived during the pilot project, FTB contracted with Barbara S. Arter of BSA Environmental Consulting to study options for mudflat management in Taunton Bay. The goal of the project was to determine feasibility and local support for applying ecosystem-based

The programs for the members meetings this summer at 7:00 p.m. in the Franklin Community Center are:
Thursday, July 8: Granite Quarrying and Stonework around Taunton Bay
Thursday, August 12: Clamming in Taunton Bay

principles to the management of mudflat fisheries in a small bay in the Gulf of Maine. The final report of April 2007 makes 28 recommendations regarding governance, education, habitat protection, research, and clam and worm fisheries management.

Taunton Bay Management Plan, 2007. As both a culmination of the foregoing efforts and a guide to the future, MDMR submitted a Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Taunton Bay, Maine to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources of the 123rd Maine Legislature on January 12, 2007. The plan listed two goals: 1) Protect and sustain ecological functions and values in Taunton Bay, and 2) Manage marine resources for the long-term use and enjoyment of all citizens of Maine. Those goals were to be refined by a steering committee representing a broad range of

perspectives and interests, which would develop a workplan, identify priorities for funding, and make recommendations to the MDMR Commissioner. The plan delineated measurable management objectives for governance, protecting marine wildlife (eagles, osprey, harbor seals, and shorebirds), managing eel-grass and other sensitive habitats, water quality, harvested marine resources (including mussels, worms and clams, scallops and urchins, lobsters, American eels, among others), and aquaculture. In bringing resource management from Augusta to the local area (while ultimate authority remained with MDMR), this plan was a breakthrough from one-size-fits-all statewide management to management on a regional scale. This approach was a first in Maine, and perhaps in the nation.

Taunton Bay Advisory Group, 2007. To implement the local bay management plan, a Taunton Bay Advisory Group was formed in 2007, members being appointed by the MDMR Commissioner. John Sowles, head of MDMR's ecology division, led the group and provided liaison with state resource managers. Sherm Hoyt, Waldo County Extension Professor, facilitated the group. After extensive discussion, the group adopted the following mission statement: The mission of the Taunton Bay Advisory Group is to advise the Maine

Water Quality Monitoring in Taunton Bay

The State Planning Office (SPO), in support of the Taunton Bay Comprehensive Management Plan, and in conjunction with the Taunton Bay Advisory Group is administering a volunteer water quality monitoring program with several local members of the Group. In addition to the volunteer component, SPO has also contracted with the University of Maine at Machias to do additional monitoring and human use activity observations in the Bay this summer. A final report will be prepared in late fall and will be distributed to the Bay's bordering municipalities should they desire a copy.

The purpose of this program is to aid in the establishment of water quality baselines in the Bay and to contribute to the continuation of monitoring protocols by establishing a sequential record of yearly monitoring.

For more information about the program, contact:

Matthew Nixon
Maine State Planning Office
(207) 287-1491
Matthew.E.Nixon@Maine.gov

Tenth Season of Sue Schaller's Horseshoe Crab Tagging Study

The shoreline of Shipyard Point in Franklin will be the site of the tenth year of Sue Schaller's study of horseshoe crabs at the northern limit of their range. Since 2001, Sue has been able to collect more than 15,000 observations when the horseshoes mate at high tides in late May through June. Some of the animals tagged in 2001 returned last year. Sue will present her ten-year findings on Friday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Taunton Bay Education Center.

If you are interested in assisting in the study or in observing the study process, contact Sue Schaller at 207-251-5491 or at horseshoe-crabs@aol.com.



Photo by Claudette Werner

An Eagle coming in for a landing in a tree on Taunton Bay.

Department of Marine Resources on the creation and implementation of a Comprehensive Marine Resources Management Plan fostering stewardship and promoting long-term ecosystem health in Taunton Bay. Advisors have focused primarily on four fisheries: blue mussels, urchins, scallops, and kelp. Fishing plans for each of these fisheries entail stock assessment, allocation among harvesters, location of harvest, harvest season, harvest practices, monitoring, and by-catch reporting. John Sowles has subsequently retired, MDMR Head Biologist Linda Mercer taking on liaison with the advisory group.

Taunton Bay Education Center opens July 14, 2007. In keeping with its long-range plan to give public outreach a high priority, FTB, now led by President Lois Johnson, rents space in Hancock's Tamarack Place for displaying maps of the bay, hosting talks on estuary issues, holding meetings, and running environmental education programs for children based on materials related to Taunton Bay.

Brian Beal Invertebrate Study, 2008. Beal, a University of Maine, Machias professor and several students sampled invertebrate populations on several sites in Hog and Egypt Bays and reported on their growth and survival rates at a members' meeting.

Wendy Norden Eelgrass Study, 2009. Norden, a University of Maine, Machias adjunct professor and two students collected data on the flora and fauna resident in and near eelgrass beds in upper and lower Taunton Bay and reported her pre-

liminary findings at a members' meeting.

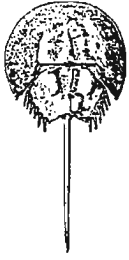
Town of Sullivan buys Gordon's Wharf, 2010. As I understand it, the wharf is to be developed primarily for recreational uses. This immediately raises issues of boating safety and potential impacts on wildlife in the area. Access to the bay has long been an issue, and this is a major breakthrough in that regard. The art will be in developing access guidelines to protect boaters and wildlife alike. Work on an access ramp is expected to be undertaken in 2011.

Epilogue. Participating in many of these episodes has been the privilege of a lifetime. Recently, while putting together a presentation to the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society about wildlife and management issues in the bay, I was astonished to discover that the story of Taunton Bay so closely intertwines with my own recent history. I had photographs of many of the highlights because I was there when they happened. Our lives are shaped by where and when we focus our activities. To large extent, my personal consciousness has been, and still is, focused on the bay. I can only think that the bay is a substantive contributor to the awareness of those who interact with it, whether they be harvesters, kayakers, researchers, managers, artists, wildlife watchers, residents, or visitors. What else can we do but be the best stewards we can in coming years?



Photo by Gerry Mouteux

Great Blue Heron.



Friends of Taunton Bay - Newsletter
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Photo by Claudette Werner

A young eagle that stopped by the house scouting out dinner.