

John Bald  
10 Columbia Avenue  
Brunswick, Maine 04011  
(207) 729-7531  
john@johnbald.net

1	<i>Gulfshore Life</i> , online Photo of the Week, April 26, 2012
2	<i>Maine</i> , January-February 2012, pg. 35
3	<i>Downeast</i> , October 2011, pg. 15
4	Original color version of the image used in the October <i>Downeast</i>
5	<i>Maine</i> , October 2011, pg. 33
6	<i>Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors</i> , 2011 Boat Show Issue, cover
7	<i>Tourist News</i> , September 16, 2010, cover

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# Gulfshore Life

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### Along the Gulfshore



Gulfshore Life's editors explore Southwest Florida.

#### Recent posts

### Photo of the Week: Rock Jetty

*This week's photo is of a rock jetty at sunset off the coast of Captiva Island.*

by Sarah Gassel



Photographer **John Bald** captured this photo, which sets a rock jetty jutting off of [Captiva Island](#) against the backdrop of an understated sunset. The lone

## VIEW

It's due to **Bowdoin College** that Brunswick can claim Harriet Beecher Stowe as a former resident (her husband was a professor there), as well as poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (he was both a professor and student) and his 1825 classmate Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of *The Scarlet Letter*. Okay, maybe I'm a literary nerd, but our daytime walking tour of town had to include the Federal-style house at 63 Federal Street (not open to the public) where Stowe hosted readings of the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* manuscript while it was still in progress. Given that the book would help incite opposition to slavery and lead our nation into the Civil War, the historical import of those readings is profound. Just down the street at 25 Federal we visit the since-renovated home where Longfellow boarded during his years as a Bowdoin professor. Next we walk Cleveland Street to visit the **First Parish Church**, where, during a communion service, Stowe first envisioned a key scene in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Bowdoin is also the alma mater of our fourteenth president, Franklin Pierce, who was friendly with Hawthorne and Longfellow. Class of 1877 alum Robert Peary would later claim to be the first man to reach the geographic North Pole, and fellow Bowdoinite Donald MacMillan assisted him on his expeditions and led several of his own. Today, the **Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum** in Hubbard Hall on the Bowdoin campus is the place to learn more about these intrepid explorers and to view Inuit art. Next door, the Bowdoin College Museum of Art features *Where hath fleeting beauty led? Selections of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Art* through January 22, with works by John Singer Sargent, Fairfield Porter, Winslow Homer, John Sloan, Alex Katz, and other renowned artists. The **Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum** preserves the former home of the Civil War hero, governor of Maine, and Bowdoin student and president. While the house is closed during the winter, his statue presides across Maine Street.

Pointing our walking shoes downtown, we strolled along the Mall (the name for the town green), which features an ice-skating rink in winter. The **Pejepscot Historical Society** is housed across Park Row in the Italiante brick **Skolfield-Whittier House**



**01** The “green bridge” over the Androscoggin River connects Brunswick to Topsham and to the old mill now home to Sea Dog Brewing Co. **02** Trattoria Athena has a cosy interior and notable tripe.

(the museum is open seasonally from June to October).

We try to decide between a movie at **Eveningstar Cinema**, which has been playing independent films in the Tontine Mall since 1979, and a film at **Frontier Cafe**, our favorite place for entertainment (film, music, performances, art) and eats, which overlooks the Androscoggin River in the high-ceilinged, tall-windowed Fort Andross Mill. The fact that Brunswick has two excellent film venues is evidence of its cultural character. Luckily, we even figure out a way to do both.

Bowdoin's dance performances and athletic games are also worth viewing; check the Bowdoin website for schedules. And make sure to come back in the summer for six weeks of chamber music performances by 250 acclaimed visiting musicians at the **Bowdoin International Music Festival**.

## EAT

Like any good college town, coffee hangouts, bistros, and watering holes abound and are frequented by locals and students alike. Begin the day at **Little Dog Coffee Shop**, the

# north by *east*

OPINIONS, ADVISORIES, AND MUSINGS FROM THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF MAINE

## October

- ▶ An obituary for the Wiscasset bypass.
- ▶ The Redneck Olympics gets in a wrestling match.
- ▶ A "Viking dam" in Cutler is debunked.



JOHN BALD

OCTOBER 2011 15



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from Pier 1, as well as puffin and Kennebec River/Bath cruises and other tours from Pier 7, on his 75- to 100-foot vessels *Pink Lady II* and *Island Lady*. At Pier 8 there's Captain Bill Campbell of **Balmy Days Cruises**, which offers day trips to the island of Monhegan on the 65-foot *Balmy Days II*, as well as harbor and lighthouse tours on the 47-foot *Novelty*, mackerel-fishing trips on the *Miss Boothbay* lobster boat, and sailing on the *Bay Lady*, a 31-foot Friendship Sloop. Two-time global circumnavigators and authors Herb and Doris Smith of **Schooner Eastwind** also welcome up to 28 passengers onboard their 65-foot vessel for daily two-hour tours around the Burnt and Ram island lighthouses (bring your own booze and snacks).

As for me and my sensitive stomach, I made the most of a complimentary launch ride from Spruce Point Inn to town and back, which provided great views of the harbor and surrounding islands without too much swell, thank you very much. If you prefer to captain a craft of your own, you can rent a kayak or stand-up paddleboard from **Tidal Transit Kayak** or join their half- or full-day tours to the Sheepscot River and the outer islands. And there's the **Maine State Aquarium**, where you and the kids can reach into simulated tidepools and safely touch sharks, all with your feet solidly on the ground.

Further explorations on terra firma include the renowned **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens**, one of the biggest non-nautical draws in the area and a delight to both my botanical sensibilities and my desire to keep the children happily occupied. The kids took to the Bibby and Harold Alfond Children's Garden like Sal to blueberries, especially the replica of the *Tidely-Idley* boat made in honor of *Burt Dow*, *Deep-Water Man* by Robert McCloskey and the three spraying rock whales from *Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee* by Chris Van Dusen. You can easily spend the good part of a day walking the trails of the Lerner Garden of the Five Senses, the Rose and Perennial Garden, the Burpee Kitchen Garden, and my favorite, Bruce John Riddell's Vayo Meditation Garden. So resistant were the kids to leaving, we almost got locked in behind the gates, which apparently close promptly at 5 p.m. (Plan accordingly for closing time and for the no-dogs rule.) Children also love the nearby **Boothbay Railway Village's** 1.5-mile ride behind a classic narrow-gauge steam engine and the antique vehicle collection. Ask about annual visits by Thomas the Tank Engine.



**01** Boothbay Harbor sees boats of all kinds, from schooners to larger craft. **02** The Chowder House's boat bar on Granary Way, where schooners used to load grain in the 1800s.

## BROWSE

When walking around town, you will quickly find that, despite the ballooning population of 50,000 people in summer, the area's 5,000 year-round residents and business owners tend to know each other on a first-name basis and enjoy Boothbay Harbor's strong sense of community, welcoming returning visitors year after year. I'm not what you might call a pleasure shopper, but I did enjoy browsing the many well-appointed home-decor stores (while wishing I had such savvy myself),

especially **Casual Interiors**, which sells ceramics, pillows, and old-fashioned lobster-buoy chandeliers and lamps designed by owner Carol Hartnett. In the store, she helped convince me to finally buy a grown-up toiletries bag, with separate organizational compartments made from recycled milk cartons, by Scout. There's also **Molly's**, which specializes in pillows enhanced with your favorite family pet photographs; **Sweet Bay's** popular recycled sailcloth and coffee-bag totes; **Mung Bean**, which is celebrating



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# Tourist News

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*Guide to shopping, galleries, dining and things to do.*

## Maine Lighthouses Welcome Visitors September 18



*Portland Head Light*

by John Bald

[www.touristnewsonline.com](http://www.touristnewsonline.com)