maine.

--- JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2011

Aroostook Hosts the World

The Biathlon World Cup invades the county

Six Writers

Have found fertile ground creating in Maine

Skiing Sugarloaf

48 hours of the best places to eat, sleep, & glide in Carrabassett Valley





75 Market Street Suite 203 207-772-3373

www.themainemag.com

If whole or part of this article is reproduced online, we ask that a link back to Maine Magazine be placed. Thank you.

Recent, Newand Forthcoming: **TheLatest fromMaine** Writers

BY DEBRA SPARK PHOTOGRAPHS BY SEAN HARRIS

Does Maine special lf appeal for writers? Josh Bodwell, the new director the executive Maine Writers and **Publishers** Alliance, speculates that it might have something do with "Yankee-ness" the of "There's the state. that real mentality,' he mending-wall "People says. respect writers, and writers need that. They hole need to up and write. Maine But when people in is with something up their neighbor, they come out to support." Several Maine authors who have found the state particularly felicitous have published, about are to publish, new work this season. Here are six of them.

Ben Coes Ann Beattle Ann Beattle
Susan Conley
Sarah Braunstein
Jane Brox
Lily King
Melissa Coleman

Coes Ben Coes always wanted a writer, but his post-collegiate professional opportunities—among them job in the White House under the Reagan George H.W. Bush administrations later as a partner in a private equity firm-led him to other pursuits. Five years ago, he woke up and said to his wife, "Shannon, you know I've been telling myself that ľm going to be

and writer some day, going to write a great book, and twenty years have gone by and I have nothing show for it." His wife told him to to and start writing. Αt get up the next day he did. The day after, he did the same. He kept to the writing which schedule, even during summers, Small his family spends in Point, a community near Bath. The result of

morning efforts Martin's, 2010), about the eneray industry, with Castine native as its and Bath Iron hero as important element. Coes write with real authority about fictional spent 1990-1991 world. He a speechwriter for the U.S. of energy and 1992-1993 doing the same job for Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens.





Ann Beattie

While browsing in a bookstore 2009, Ann Beattie picked up Elaine Showalter's A JURY OF HER PEERS: **CELEBRATING** AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS FROM ANNE **BRADSTREET** TO ANNIE PROULX. flipped Beattie the index to see if she was mentioned. She was, on а which observed single page, that **Beattie** holds the record for the most stories accepted by THE NEW YORKER а ten-year period. "Really?" Beattie thought time. "I don't have the THE NEW the most stories in YORKER. far eclipsed ľm Updike." But the by John statistic was right, and it gave Beattie the idea collect THE NEW YORKER to stories single volume. in a Everything the magazine published 1974between when Beattie was just 26and 2006 was released last after November, not long Beattie left Maine for the Before she started season. teaching at the University of Virginia, Beattie and her husband—painter Lincoln Perry—spent seven eight months a year in York. Now they split their time between Maine, Key West, and Virginia. "lt was his choice really to come Maine," Beattie to says of their move to the state twenty years ago. "He had painter friends the in area and he loves to sail."



Susan Conley In the summer of 2007, Susan Conley, her husband, and her two boys abruptly moved from Portland to Beijing to take advantage of a job offer. The couple had a single month to pack up and rent their Portland to find an apartment and a school for their sons in China. abruptly, Conley returned to the United States 2008. The visit wasn't to Woolwich, where she grew or Phippsburg, where she has always spent her summers, to doctors in Boston. While in China, she had discovered a lump in her breast that proved to be cancerous. THE FOREMOST Conley's memoir of her experience, less a GOOD FORTUNE is tale than, as Conley puts it, "a close examination of a family when it is dislocated culturally and what happens to within disease." surprisingly celebratory Her book describes trying to adjust to her new circumstances. In China, she purchases a Buddha head at a flea market to illness, she roams alleys for back the city's best dumplings, and, in an effort to make friends, she finds herself at a where chicken beaks float in the of expats don't like where they are from," says Conley. are happy to trade the old life for a new, glamorous But Conley loved her Maine life, what with her and the Telling Room, the Portland creative writing lab and literary hub, which she co-founded. Conlev and her family decided to return to Maine early in 2010, and memoir is due out from Knopf in February 2011.



Sarah Braunstein

What's behind disturbing title of Sarah Braunstein's OF first novel, THE **SWEET RELIEF** MISSING CHILDREN, 2011? "[from Norton February think our culture out in especially missing fascinated by missing children and girls," says the author. "l'm interested in experience being a missing child the of mav be relief passive, the child. I wanted take the notion of to to the missing, victimized child and turn it on its head." Her novel together undertakes exploration by weaving stories way of characters fleeing in some or another. Braunstein's Maine after own flights have landed her in living in Oregon, New York City, and Cape Cod, among other places. She Maine in part because the University of came hired her husband, writer Tussing, Justin but says, "Maine was always on my radar. I always do my best work by an ocean. This feels like a place where you can be alone to be productive, but, especially in Portland, you get enough stimulation from the city to not go crazy."

Jane Brox

Jane Brox wrote three books farm about her family and the history of agriculture in Dracut, Massachusetts, before writing her most book, critically recent the acclaimed **BRILLIANT:** THE **EVOLUTION** OF **ARTIFICIAL** LIGHT Mifflin. (Houghton July 2010). "Ι call book," BRILLIANT my Maine "because she says, began it when I moved to Maine." time, At the she wanted behind leave the personal material of her earlier "since work, Maine and life," wasn't mν own she felt she savs, she could do SO. The idea for the book came to her after a conversation with one of her Dracut neighbors, man who remembered growing up the 1930s without in any electricity. When he went to an agricultural college in Massachusetts, western he lived a boarding house, in switching where he kept the light on and off in his room. He fascinated was by the technological advance. Brox He told that others must have thought he was The simple. author doesn't think of her new book as a history of technology, but "the human story of how we went from trying to create a small window in the dark to a world where we've created overwhelming brilliance. There's really little dark anywhere."





Lily King

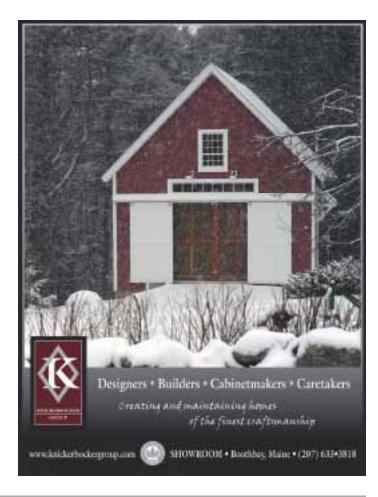
Since it was released in July 2010, Lily King's third novel, **FATHER** OF THE RAIN, has received rave reviews from such publications the **NEW** as YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, ELLE, VANITY FAIR, and **ENTERTAINMENT** WEEKLY. In August, the book won the England Award. New Book The follows story the lives of Daley Amory and her alcoholic father from the Daley time is 11 to the time she is 45, but the book is more than iust an addiction narrative. "It's the story about whom it is love," safe to says King. The author has been living and writing in Yarmouth since 2002, when she moved here from Boston after having second her child. Explaining the decision. she "Life in says, the unmanageable. city seemed wanted We really also our children and ourselves be connected more to nature." When she was 24. Kina worked for a year as assistant an innkeeper on North Haven, where her stepfather had a summer house. When she left, she vowed she would get back to "lt Maine. took fourteen did it," she years, but says. "We really did move Maine for peace and closeness to nature." But found is a what she's also welcoming writers' warm and community. "| don't think able to leave now," I'd be she says.

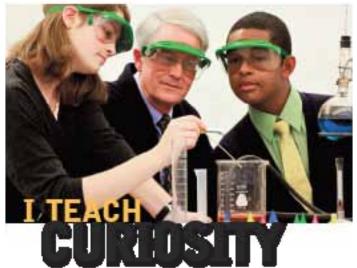


Coleman Melissa Melissa THIS Coleman's first book. YOUR HANDS (HarperCollins, due out April 2011), about up during the back-to-the-land a memoir growing movement, years when people left cities to live in the country grow their own food without the aid of electricity, Nearing, phones, or public water. Helen and Scott whose GOOD LIFE kicked off the movement, sold LIVING THE Coleman's that neighbored their the Blue farm own on grew up there in a one-room farmhouse that Peninsula. Coleman her parents built by hand. She remembers her childhood as a magical largely that ended in tragedy. Her one three-yearold sister drowned in a pond on the property, her parents separated. the family left the farm. Eventually, and her father returned, and Coleman came back to Maine, though not until she was 32. "I wanted to be close to family, knowing I wanted to start my own family," she says. Coleman also wanted to write. "Maine has that isolation, so you can actually get the writing done, and you are not bombarded by external stimuli all the but if you time, need a community of people who are encouraging and like-minded, that is there in a big way." +









Firm Grant, Science Teacher 16,0 min Color

2018-2011 MEN HORES

November 1-15m. | Spile of

Column 12 t Nov 14 West

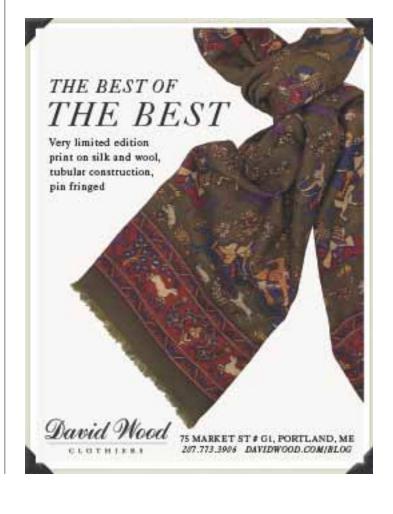
Bath, Bai

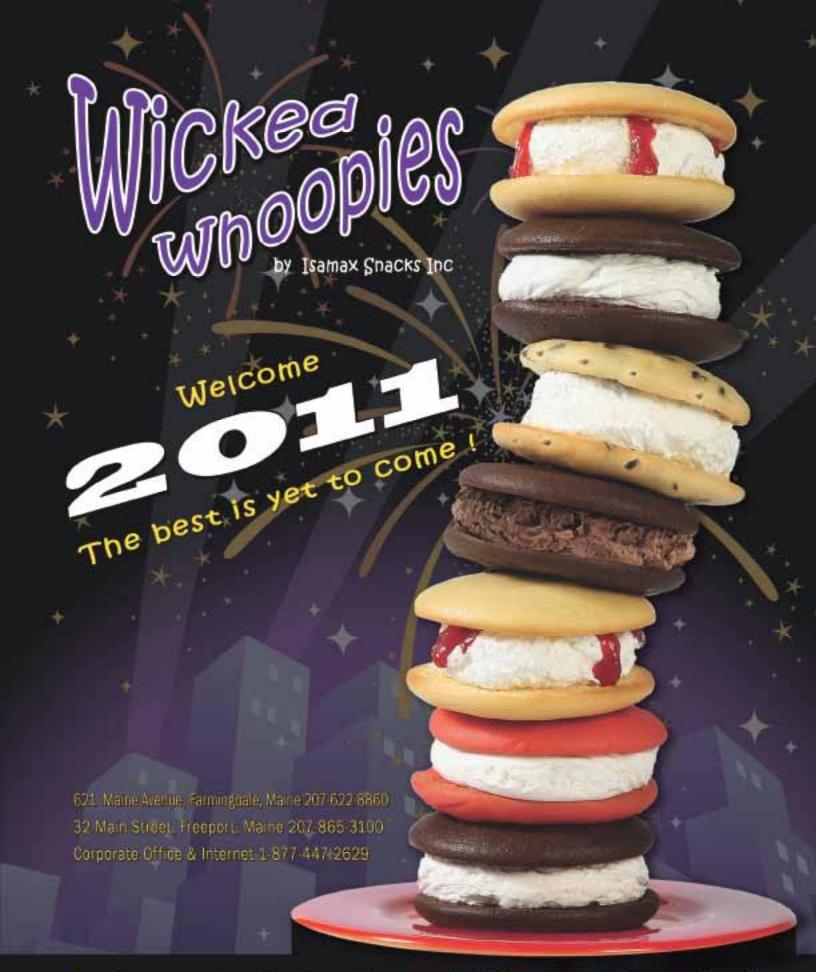
December 4, 2019 Releasey 5 & April 30, 2011. At HYDE, academics is only part

Applications of squares and second solutions.

They make the factor of the second







At Least 10 Smiles in each Wicked Whoopie Pie