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Marden, Judith oral history interview

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Interview with Judith Marden by Mariah Pfeiffer

Interviewee

Marden, Judith

Interviewer

Pfeiffer, Mariah

Date

June 29, 2006

Place

Lewiston, Maine

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Biographical Note

Judith Marden was born on November 17, 1944 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her father, George Fred Marden, was an electrical engineer, and her mother, Lucy Chittick Marden, was a teacher. Judith entered Bates College in 1962, where she majored in English and was very active in the Outing Club. In 1966 she graduated from Bates and went on to Boston University to attend the School of Public Communications and Journalism. Judith came back to Maine and worked as a teacher at Kent's Hill for two years. Her first job at Bates College was working in the newly formed development office. At Bates, she has also been business manager, the first Director of Special Projects and the first Director of Personnel. She also worked with former college president Hedley Reynolds for many years. She played a major role in developing such things as the summer program at Bates and a student led employment office, and continues to be involved with maintaining the Bates-Morse Mountain Conservation Area.

Scope and Content

This interview covers her student years at Bates as well as the various positions she's held as a member of the Bates staff. Includes information on campus life and culture; her involvement

and activities with the Outing Club, both as a student and advisor; and her work with the Land for Maine's Future Program and the Androscoggin Land Trust.

Transcript

A: ... one of my very favorite things to do, and probably the thing that got me excited about the woods at all, was playing in a vacant lot across the street. And this lot had been bulldozed at some point and was going to be used for a housing development, and then the housing development was never built and so it grew up to woods and it had lots of rocks and so forth. It's where all the neighborhood kids used to play, and so I used to go over there and play. And that's really all the exposure I had to woods until my parents built a cottage down in Lakeville, Massachusetts and we used to go down there when I was in high school. But even that wasn't, it wasn't really woody, so I didn't know much about woods until I came to Bates as a student and as a freshman went out on my first Outing Club trip and went to Tumble Down on Little Jackson, absolutely fell in love with mountains, and have been there ever since.

Q: So the mountains were the first love.

A: The mountains were the first love.

Q: How did you decide to come to Bates? Coming from Boston?

A: I had a neighbor who was a teacher and she was the person who really advised me a lot, and advised my parents as well. I'd been to a girls school, Girls Latin School in Boston, and everyone agreed, including me, that I probably ought to go to a coed college. I didn't want a large college. I knew I wanted to get away from home so I wouldn't be at home all the time, but I didn't want to get too far away from home. So the colleges that were suggested were Middlebury and Bates and Colby, and I visited all of them and happened to have an interview by Milt Lindholm, he was the former dean of admissions, he's (*unintelligible*) now, Lindholm House is named after him, and I absolutely fell in love with him. And he said that I could probably get in early admission, and I fell in love with Bates and Milt Lindholm and I applied early admission and I got in, so that was that, here I was.

Q: What was the biggest draw to Bates, as compared to the others?

A: Well, I think it was the interview. It's a very subjective thing. When I went to Middlebury, it seemed very cold, and it's funny looking back on it now, I probably would have loved Middlebury if I had gone there as a student, because I would have learned to ski and all that. But when I went there, I had an interview with admissions, and they only talked to my mother, they didn't talk to me, she answered all the questions on my behalf, which she did anyway, I mean she always did that. But it was nice to have an interview at Bates where Milt absolutely insisted that I was the person that was being interviewed. And (*unintelligible*) at Middlebury was that we passed by the ski jump, and I had no knowledge of ski jumps or anything, and I looked at it and I figured that was what skiing was about and probably everybody had to go off that, and that was a little intimidating. So that was that. And then we went to

Colby, but we hadn't scheduled an interview in advance and there was no one to interview me, so then we went to Bates, and then it was too late for anything else, I was sold on Bates. It seems to happen that way, I think people react chemically to Bates somehow, there's some je ne sais quoi factor that is magnetic.

Q: I definitely agree, I think that happened to me too.

A: Did it really? I've heard people describe that, and you can't explain it, but it happens.

Q: So Milt was your je ne sais quoi factor?

A: I think he was.

Q: And it lived up to your expectations while you were here?

A: It did, I absolutely loved being at Bates, and loved every year. In the first two years I went with the same fellow, we sort of went steady, and I spent almost all my time with him, and did very well academically. And then he went to Stanford and I got on (*unintelligible*) Council, my grades dramatically dropped, but I became an Outing Club major and I think I went on almost every trip for the next two years. I was an English major with a geology (*unintelligible*) minor – if we'd had minors, it would have been a minor.

Q: And so how did you get involved with Outing Club?

A: I think I got involved with the Outing Club because my freshman roommate and I decided we needed something to do that first weekend, and we both signed up for a trip, and I had such a good time on that trip that I wanted to keep on going. So then I tried, it was when people had to actually run for council, and there were two positions from each class, a male and a female on council, and I didn't win my first year, but then when I ran again in my sophomore year, at the end of my sophomore year, I did get that position.

And then I kind of, I was always very loyal to Outing Club, and when I came back to Bates in 1969 immediately tried to find out what was happening with Outing Club and so forth, and it happened to be the year of the 1970 reunion, so that was the 50th reunion, because Outing Club started in 1920, and the students who were here at the time and a lot of other people had a huge reunion where lots of Outing Club people came back, and we had hikes and a big dinner and a lot of stuff, so it was fun to re-involved again.

And then in the early eighties, that was when they still needed advisors and they were looking for a new advisor, and I happened to be the judge of Winter Carnival snow sculptures and got to know a lot of the people who were currently on council, and they asked me if I wanted to be advisor. So I think I'm one of the last remaining club advisors at Bates, because nobody needs them anymore, but I'm still hanging on.

Q: That's great, it's great to have you.

A: Well thank you, I still love it.

Q: And what sorts of activities was Outing Club doing back then?

A: Back then we did a lot of one-day things. We still had Saturday classes, so most activities couldn't start until Saturday afternoon, and if they were overnights they could be Saturday nights but not Friday nights, and we also needed chaperones so that limited some of the things we could do, too. Especially overnight, those people didn't want to go overnight. We had two wonderful advisors when I first started, T. P. Wright in political science and Dick Sampson in mathematics, and they were always up for going on adventures, so they were really good to have around and we could go. But if we couldn't find an advisor, we just couldn't run the trip. Not an advisor, but a chaperone.

So, we did have some amazing trips that, because of my reunion two weekends ago, I was just looking at all the pictures. And we used to take Greyhound buses on trips. There were so few things to do I guess that lots and lots of people went on Outing Club trips. Really, there weren't very many clubs, and Outing Club was one of the few things that got people off campus. And most students didn't have cars, so we'd have to rent a bus. And I'll never forget going to Bigelow with a whole busload of students, and we went up the fire warden's trail, and to get into the trail head you had to go on this little dirt road, that I think is still there, and the bus couldn't make it up the hill. So we had to get everybody off the bus and we actually pushed this bus, and I have pictures of us doing that.

Q: How many of you were pushing this bus?

A: Oh, I don't know, it was probably about ten people pushing on the back of it, and I'm sure the bus held maybe thirty people but not all that many people could get a handle on the bus to give it a push.

Q: So you were mostly going in state, or out of state?

A: Mostly in state, entirely in state I would say, except to Mt. Washington, we always had a fall climb and a spring climb up Mt. Washington, and usually had at least two busloads of people go there. I'll never forget, it was a trip with students from I think Florida Memorial College who came up on an exchange program, and some of them had never seen snow before. And we took a bunch of them on a Mt. Washington climb, and you can imagine, their first introduction to snow was climbing Mt. Washington in the spring. I remember we stopped off, there was still snow by the side of the road, somewhere over in Shelburne, New Hampshire, they stopped by the side of the road and everyone got off the bus and threw snowballs at each other. It was great fun.

And canoe trips were a lot different, too, because we stored the canoes out by Cobbossee Stream, in a garage out there, and they were on the first canoe trailer, and someone with a trailer hitch would pull them somewhere up at the head of the stream and we floated down the stream and paddled down the stream and around Cobbossee Lake, that's all we ever did, we never went anywhere else.

Q: That was it?

A: That was it.

Q: For water trips in general.

A: That's right, no kayaks. Couldn't even take the canoes anywhere.

Q: So there was nothing on the Androscoggin.

A: Not at all. Then, I think if anyone had suggested putting a canoe into the Androscoggin, I'm pretty sure those canoes were either canvas or aluminum, or maybe both, and the first thing somebody would have said was, well, there goes the canoe. It would be completely corroded or eaten away quickly. The Androscoggin was well-known, when I was at Bates as a student, as simply a pollutant that flowed through the city.

Q: What were the Bates kids saying about the Androscoggin?

A: Well, we didn't see the Androscoggin very much, because our travels off campus didn't take us that far, those who didn't have cars. Or we were crossing it on the way to some other place. But it was in evidence because in the morning, especially, you know, some kind of an inversion or something, you could smell the Androscoggin, and it was really, really strong and very heavy. I can remember, women's dining hall was in Rand Hall at the time and I used to work there, and so I had to get up early to get over there to get everything set up for breakfast, and we can remember going out about six or six thirty in the morning and it really was incredibly smelly, especially early in the morning but quite often.

Q: Why did it happen in the morning?

A: It must have been something to do with the atmosphere and the temperatures overnight. I remember that being especially in the winter, somehow it must have held the smell close to the ground. I don't know the chemistry of it. So of course there were lots of jokes about the smelly (*unintelligible*), but I don't think anybody ever thought about putting a boat in it.

Q: Was there any talk of river advocacy?

A: No. In fact, at that point there weren't too many advocates at Bates anyway.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: I guess, my sense is that people were pretty much concerned with their own studies and their own lives, and not thinking very much about what was going on the world or what was going on in the Lewiston-Auburn area or Maine, except from an academic standpoint.

Q: Why do you think that is?

A: Well, that was the late sixties, and -

Q: There was a lot going on.

A: There was a lot going on in some places, but I've heard it said that Bates students (*unintelligible*) sixties til the seventies. When I look back and remember it, that was so true, we were very protected and really quite conservative. We talk about the Bates bubble now, well the Bates bubble then was twice as thick. There just wasn't as much, well, we didn't have things like televisions in the dorms. All dorms didn't even have rec rooms, people didn't have their own television. You were lucky to have a radio. So a lot of the news from the outside world didn't even get to us, in the first place. We had speakers that would come to chapel, occasional lecturers, and that would bring a point of view or an issue to us, but it wasn't easy. And you know how it is when you're in a little community, where there's so much going on and everybody's your own age and stuff like that, it's easy to be insular, instead of looking outside.

The one thing that was going on that was probably the biggest thing in our lives was the Vietnam War, and even that was more of a personal thing about our friends, or if we were male, ourselves being drafted. But it was just, when I was here as a student, it was just on the verge of people beginning to think that maybe this wasn't a good thing to be doing. At first, when the war started, it was more like an extension of WWII, where we were doing the right thing and America was standing up for what it believed and democracy and so forth and so on, and so people believed that in the beginning. Then you began to see the light. But that didn't really didn't happen until anyway my senior year or the year afterwards, and that's when things started happening here in terms of protests and really people beginning to become activists.

Q: Did that come with environmental consciousness as well, or was it mostly focused on Vietnam?

A: I'd say it was mostly focused on Vietnam. Environmental consciousness -

Q: Because I know, in history it said that both sort of came along around the same time, but did you see that reflected at Bates at all?

A: Not a lot. The one thing that I remember, Bob Chute was in the bio department and he really was an activist, and he (*unintelligible*) for a lot of these things that other people were thinking about, like pesticides. When I was a student here, there was a spray gun on a truck that would come around and spray all the trees, (*unintelligible*), and I'm sure it was DDT. And I remember Bob had a bulletin board and he had a line right down the middle on it, and on one side it said Bates, on the other side it said birds, and he would go out and he'd pick up dead birds and he'd stick them on the bulletin board with thumbtacks, after the DDT sprayer had gone through. Now, I don't know whether it was Bates or whether it was the city that actually commissioned the spraying, but he was aware of it and so he was making the students aware of it. But most people just accepted it as just what happened.

Q: Wow, that's a pretty intense image.

A: It was, and thank God for Bob Chute. I think he began to raise our consciousness. But actually, I don't remember even thinking much about the environment until I came back here to work, and when we first started having oil embargos and the price of oil started rising in the early seventies. (*Unintelligible*), something's going on and we should be alert and aware.

Q: What year did you come back here to work?

A: Nineteen sixty-nine.

Q: And what have you done since graduation and then came back to work?

A: I went to BU for a year, in journalism, and then lived in Boston for a year and realized that I -- I didn't finish my degree in journalism. I ran out of money and kind of ran out of inclination at the same time. And then I was able to get a job at Kent's Hill, up in Augusta, it's a private school, and I taught there for two years. And then I came back here, in fact I came back in the summer just to be with my old roommate and her husband, who were working for the debate institute, and I stopped to visit them. And there was also a theater institute going on at the same time and they needed some volunteers to make costumes, so I volunteered and made some costumes and realized that I really like the place a lot. And I wrote a letter to Bernie Carpenter, who was the treasurer at that time, he was also in the personnel office here, and I basically said, I really like Bates, isn't there something I can do there, and several months later he called me and he said there were a couple of openings and did I want to come up for an interview. So I did, and I started work here in September of '69. But just before that I'd actually accepted a job with the Appalachian Mountain Club on Joy Street, in Boston.

Q: So what happened there?

A: Well, it was like the day before Bernie called to offer me an interview at Bates, and I had the key in my pocket, and the only thing is that I was only offered eighty dollars a week and I would have had to live at home with my parents, and I really didn't want to do that, and I didn't want to live in Boston, I wanted to come back to Maine. So when I came up and talked to Bernie, he said that there were two job openings, one was in the news bureau and one was in this new department they were just starting at Bates, which was called Development (*unintelligible*) Advancement Department, doing fund raising, and which one would I like. And so I said, I don't know, I've done a lot of newspaper writing and stuff like that, I think I'd like to try something different, I think I'll try development. And so I did. And I told him how much I had been offered at AMC, and he said, would you come here for eighty dollars a week? And I said, well if came here I'd have to rent something, so maybe you could do a little better. And he said, well, how about a hundred. So I started out making a hundred dollars a week.

Q: You were living right here in Lewiston at that time?

A: No, Tom Moser, who was one of the faculty here, the furniture maker, but he was also head of the Debate Department at the time, and he was restoring old houses and he had an old house that he'd bought out in Poland that he was working on restoring. It was when nobody

wanted old houses, and he knew a lot about it and he was restoring his own old house out in New Gloucester, and he was looking for someone to rent the house and sort of help out with some of the restoration. So I was able to rent that for a hundred dollars a month, and I was there and stayed there for a year. It was great, I learned a lot. That's really why I got to like old houses. (*Unintelligible*) know anything about them and always had whatever (*unintelligible*).

Q: So what was Bates like, how did your perspective change when you were working at Bates as compared to going here?

A: Interesting question. I was very nervous when I came back to work at Bates, because it hadn't been so long since I'd been a student, and I guess I thought that people would still think of me as a student. And I knew that I'd have to be working with a lot of people that had known me as a student, but I'd still be a colleague and I'd be expected to get things done, and so I was kind of afraid that they wouldn't take me seriously. But they did, it was absolutely great coming back. I found that everyone was helpful and really willing to teach me things that I needed to know, and I really did enjoy it. And it was very much fun to be in a new administration with a new president who was building a different kind of administration.

Bates had been under President Phillips for years, including the time that I was a student, and then Hedley Reynolds came, and I think he started, it seemed like he was very new, I think he'd been at Bates for a couple of years anyway when I first started, but it was still part of a new college that he was building. And he increased the faculty by fifty percent, so he made some enormous changes when he came to Bates. And then he was working on, he knew we needed a new library and that was a priority. So there were lots of things to raise money for, but I thought they were really worthy projects, and it was pretty easy to get excited about raising money for all these projects.

And it was a very small administration, so I became part of it very quickly. It was the college's first capital campaign, and we had a consultant who was based in Boston and then on staff in Lane Hall, but shortly after I started, I'd been working for about a year at Bates, and several people had left, including the director, and in the interim I became acting director. So it was kind of a, I'd never had any experience in development and suddenly I was acting director and I had to learn very fast. But it was also pretty great to be that involved with the administration of the college.

Q: Did you get to see some of the political changes that you were talking about that happened more in the seventies, as compared to the sixties?

A: Oh yeah, I remember times when – a lot of these things were sort of centered around social life at Bates, too, (*unintelligible*) rules, coed dorms, that kind of thing, and so, and there were several times that there were marches on Carignan's house and sit-ins at Lane Hall, so that was happening. And when the Kent State shootings happened, there's some pictures downstairs, instead of having a major uprising at Bates, the students decided, with the help of the administration and the involvement of the administration, to do a cleanup in Lewiston. And apparently Lewiston, the town was trying to do its annual cleanup or something, and so everybody volunteered, and (*unintelligible*) actually drove a truck, there's a picture of him downstairs driving that truck, a trash truck, picking up (*unintelligible*) on the street, and the

faculty got out with brooms and did a real spring cleanup. It was a lot of fun. There was so much going on, a lot of active people.

Q: But still at this time there wasn't much activism towards the river, or was it beginning to -?

A: No, I just even can't remember people thinking about the river. One of the things I can remember is that the new bridge, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge that goes at the end of Russell Street was being built at the time, it was being considered. And there were lots of public hearings because it was really going to impact Russell Street, in terms of then, a very sleepy little neighborhood street, and not the thoroughfare it is now. But the other thing is that there were a lot of people who were saying that the town was going to be expanding outward and that that's not a good place to put that bridge, that the bridge should be put out farther, like around Marden's or somewhere like that, because it's going to bisect the town to have that kind of an artery going through it. And now it's proven true. I remember Jim Carignan was always at the city planning board here making that point, and Bernie Carpenter and the president, and they weren't listened to. But that sort of gave a focus on the river because it had to cross the river, but I can't remember people thinking about the impact of building a bridge over the river or anything more than the river is something to be crossed, not to be cleaned.

Q: And how was the smell at this point?

A: I think it was better, but I don't really remember. Of course, I didn't live right here on campus either, I was living in Poland and then in Minot most of that time. But Ed Muskie was on the board of trustees then, too, so a lot of the stuff that he was doing with the Clean Water Act must have been happening. I just wasn't very aware of it.

Q: Do you think that was probably a general thing, people just didn't know what was going on?

A: Yeah, we just weren't paying attention. And there might have been some people who were paying attention, but Dr. Lawrence, Walter Lawrence, was chair of our Chemistry Department at Bates, and (*unintelligible*), so I'm sure he was absolutely aware of what was going on, and he was taking samples all the time and knowing how much dissolved oxygen was in it and all that. But the rest of us weren't that involved in the river, weren't even interested. I don't think I ever really became aware of the river as anything but beautiful falls in the spring, and even those were impacted by the canals and drawing down the water, until I moved to Greene, and that wasn't until like '75. And even then, I remember driving out there and the River Road was dirt beyond a certain point, and so it really seemed like far out in the country. And even when I lived there and moved into the house I'm in now, I didn't think a lot about the river for several years. And finally, I can't even remember when it was but I realized it's a great place to ski.

Q: Along the banks, you mean?

A: No, on the river, when it was frozen. And when I started going on these great ski trips

and doing loops out there, that we'd go across to the river land and using the river as part of my (*unintelligible*) ski trail, and that's probably the first time I really thought very much about how great it was to have a river nearby, and what a beautiful river it is.

Q: And when you began to think about it, how did that change your perspective, or what happened after that?

A: Well, it wasn't too long after that, it was sometime after, it was around 1988 or so, that they built the oxygenation plant, and I was on the planning board in Greene at the time and so I went to the public hearings when they were putting together the idea for the oxygenation plant, they had to come and get building permission and all that. And I think that's when I really began to think about the condition of the river, and why it was polluted and what was actually doing that to it. And the other part of that was that the river land, that two thousand acres in Turner that used to known as the game preserve, belonged to – I'm trying to think of which paper company it was. I can't think of it right now, I know I've got it written down, but they wanted to sell it and it was going to become a development. And that kind of galvanized a bunch of people who would be using that area and who thought it was really valuable to put together a proposal for the first Land for Maine's Future program, which coincidentally and luckily had been put into place that year. And we wrote a proposal, did a video, made some very impassioned pleas, and actually got funding to buy it, and then turned it over to the state of Maine, and that was the beginning of the Androscoggin Land Trust, and those people got together and formed the Land Trust afterwards.

Q: So you were there at the beginning of this Land for Maine's Future and all of that?

A: Yes. But Bonny Lounsbury was a great catalyst for that, and Russ Piata (*sounds like*), who used to work for Channel 10, and Charlie Runs (*sounds like*) who was one of the people who began WBLM, so there was a good group of people from that group, from that year at Bates, which was '76 or so, that stayed in the area and they were letting me jump on the bandwagon and become activist.

Q: I didn't know that Bonny Lounsbury was from Bates.

A: Oh, she worked with me, she knew these other people, but she was involved.

Q: Okay, and then there was a group from Bates as well.

A: Yes, several Bates alums.

Q: And they got together, and have been working ever since, right? Are you still, are you a part of -?

A: I'm still a part of the Land Trust. Bonny retired a few years ago, but she's still actively trying to conserve land. She started her own business, and Russ Piata left the state, he left Channel 10 a few years ago. I know he went to another job, but I'm not sure what it is.

Q: Do you feel like it's a similar core group anyways that's still involved in this activism?

A: It comes and goes. We've added a lot of new people now, too, and ARA is a new thing, and the Land Trust of course, we just commissioned a study of the area that the Androscoggin Land Trust focuses on, which is from Livermore Falls down to Lisbon-Durham, that section of the river, and has conservation partners actually just take maps and state studies, like Maine Natural Areas Program and things like the deer wintering areas, and lots of the data sets, put them all together and try to identify places that have special features that should be concentrated on as focus areas for us to go actively try to conserve. And so that's just happened, and now we have an intern who's actually looking at tax maps to see who owns what areas.

Of course we don't have any money, but we can help with at least writing proposals and sponsoring projects for the Land for Maine's Future, if that gets refunded, and just raising awareness of how valuable these are, these people's lands are, both to water quality and for the future. And once it gets subdivided, it's lost forever. But people can't afford to farm anymore, and we're trying to do things on a local level in keeping taxes down along the riverbank so that people aren't assessed at development value, but at farm value or forest value. Some things we can do, but it's disappearing fast. And unfortunately, the cleaner the water gets, the more desirable it is for housing.

Q: Seems like one of the big paradigms, you know, stuff like that.

A: That's probably saved it. Ironically, it was just such a gross river for the longest time that people didn't want to live along it, and so it didn't get all built up like some of the cleaner rivers. But it's a wonderful place to kayak, and when you're out there, you've been there, I'm sure, it's like you don't know there's any cities around, it's so beautiful.

Q: So if you had to describe the role of the river in your life at the moment, how would you describe it?

A: I think it's one of the things that keeps me living here. You know, I've had my house now for thirty years, and been able to put together land around it so that it's really quite protected. But I've always kind of wanted to live near water, I like having access to water, and having an area where I can go skiing in the winter or snowshoeing without having other houses right nearby is really, really important to me. And there have been times when I've thought I'd really like to move farther north, maybe closer to the mountains or something like that. But it seems like it's really a perfect environment for me as it is, especially as I think toward retirement and I think – because sometimes I get really depressed, when I'm driving to work and I see all this development on the River Road, houses are springing up there like (*unintelligible*), and every field is growing with new crop, and it's houses. And I feel very helpless. The Land Trust can only do so much, people need the money, they can't farm anymore, I understand why they are selling and developing, but on the other hand, it's just really (*unintelligible*), it's very saddening to see that happening.

And so between my land and Jim Nesbitt's and Jed's land, the (*unintelligible*) over the mountain, we're a little island. And I think it weren't for that land and if it weren't for the river, I really

would want to move farther north, because I'd rather live in a place that wasn't so developed. But because we have the river there, and because we held the river land, and we have a core of people who are interested in conservation and keeping wildlife corridors, and including corridors along the river and intersecting there and going over (*unintelligible*), that's really important too. And maybe I wouldn't find that in another place. So it has a big impact on the area that I live in, and why I want to keep on living there.

Q: That makes a lot of sense. Do you think your advocacy work has played a big part in your wanting to stay around as well?

A: We have a real heartfelt investment in the area. And it's funny, somebody was asking me the other day what city I'd like to live near, and I really don't want to live near any city. And they asked me if I'd want to live in Lewiston, and I really had to think about that. Up until recently, the answer would have been no, but that is the closest city. Augusta is fairly close but not really. And I've seen so many good things happening in Lewiston now, and a lot of people who are either coming back there who grew up and went away and then they wanted to come back, or people who are staying here, especially people who have gone to Bates and have loved the area and they're staying here and making the investment. And this is where my friends are, so yeah, I think it makes a big difference. And I feel like this is (*unintelligible*) that I've been involved in all of my life now, or all of my functional life, because I didn't do very much before I came to Bates. So, I'd never go back to Massachusetts, that's for sure. Famous last words, you know. But this is where my people are, such as they are. It's not family, because I don't really have a family, but it is family in the sense that you can choose your family, so I guess this is it.

Q: I guess my last question would be, if you had a vision for the future of the river and the river's role in both this community and your life, how would you describe it?

A: Well yes, I do, I have a strong vision of a river that is very clean, but is also – well, it provides several things, and one is recreation, but the other is that sense of being able to get away and solitude and reflection, and a wild place in an area that's increasingly populated where people can go for a refuge. And I think that's something that people really, really need, and when they don't get that, or when they don't realize that they need it, which could happen, children growing up and never having that. The Wilderness and (*unintelligible*) School is just starting an initiative about getting children back into nature, and someone has just written a book about it, Nature Deficit, which I really want to read, because I do think that's happening. And by being in Lewiston, and especially now by being in the Harvard Center, I'm realizing how many kids in this area don't know anything about nature. And here they live within feet of the river.

And so I think one of the things I'd really like to see is the central area of Lewiston somehow using the river for education and for recreation of a different sort, to provide people who live right here in the city that experience of nature, and teaching them how important it is and how it can improve their own lives. That, coupled with Thorncrag and the Land Lab and some of the things that are growing around here, growing well but not fast enough. And the Land Trust, too, that we preserve and conserve areas like Garcelon Park and the Harkins Preserve and places that are more urban, not necessarily on the fringes, but easily accessible to some of the schools around here.

But I think the river itself -

End of Side A

Side B

A: ... with education and being involved with schools and with other programs, it could mean a lot to students, and it could mean a lot to the people who live here. And not in ways that pollute it, but in ways that appreciate it.

And you know, the other thing is the center of Lewiston and the river banks, and how beautiful they are now, with water flowing over the falls, and how we should be able to capitalize on that to make this a more beautiful city. Instead of having of having our buildings face away from the river, have them face out on the river, a place to look at it and admire it and be inspired and be uplifted. I think flowing water does that to people, it's something that makes you feel better. I don't know what it is about flowing water, but you think about you think about how many fountains are sold, (*unintelligible*), here that's free. And to be able to bring that to Lewiston and Auburn in a way that really improves the city and improves the way we think about ourselves, as a beautiful city, not the kind of city that – twenty years ago we were talking about that it wasn't beautiful and it was just utilitarian and dirty and nobody wanted to live there. It's improved so much now, but the river is one of its blessings.

And then as a native of Greene, I would like to see more public access. Even businesses on the river, I always thought it would be fun to have a kayak business on the river and rent kayaks so people could go out and paddle around the Gulf Island Pond and experience it for themselves. But usually, in most cases, there isn't much public access, except on the Turner Bridge or Cherry Pond.

Q: Are those more recent public access places, or have they been around for a while?

A: Well, the Turner Bridge one I think has been around for a while, it was, as part of the whole oxygenation and dam re-licensing project, CMP, which then owned the island and the banks of the river, put a picnic area and boat launch area at Turner Bridge, or the Greene-Turner Bridge, and also put picnic tables and fire rings on a couple of islands out in Gulf Island Pond, and that was around 1988 or '89.

Q: Relatively recent.

A: Relatively recent.

Q: Do you know if there are projects for more public access in the works at the moment?

A: Only through the Land Trust, as far as I know. There are a few private landowners that have land on the river that are interested in conservation. The only thing is that most of them can't afford to just plain donate their land or put conservation easements on it, they need some kind of compensation from those development sites. So that's one of the things we're working

on now, is how we get that compensation. And the more desirable the land gets, the more the land is worth.

Q: Do you see that as one of the biggest challenges for the Land Trust?

A: I do, it's a huge challenge. And especially since we aren't having the funding through the state we used to have. I'm not very good at remembering numbers, but the first iteration of Land for Maine's Future program was a bond issue that gave a good substantial chunk of funding, and it was renewed several times. But then it wasn't renewed for several years, and then last year I think it ended up getting \$12 million, which was nowhere near, there's so many projects in the pipeline. And I don't think there's going to be a bond issue this year, so next year we'll have to do another campaign, and I think most of the money that was funded in the last issue has been committed now.

So meanwhile, where do you go, where do you get money. And there are some foundations that will fund things like that, the Trust for Public Land is working very hard to try to conserve land in Maine now, and they're a national organization so they have a little more experience, and they have staff, paid staff and people who are expert in looking for funding sources. But we don't have a lot of those, it's a volunteer force, like the Land Trust, everyone has a day job. So it's very hard to find people with the time and expertise to commit to the fund raising part of it. And besides, people join these things because they like to walk on the land, they don't like to do the paperwork. If they were doing that, they'd be in an office someplace. So we need a lot of environmental fund raisers.

Q: Do you see there's a lot of interest on the part of citizens of Lewiston-Auburn, or is it generally this volunteer core?

A: Actually no, there isn't a lot of interest, and I think a lot of its history. This area hasn't traditionally been an easy area to fund raise in. You know, granted, with all these new houses being built we're getting an influx of new people who may have a different perspective on that. But I think people who have lived here probably have a perception of the river that's negative, and maybe just don't see what a wonderful gift it is, or could be if it were enhanced a little bit. And that's part of our job, too, is to help people realize that it is something really special.

Q: How are you going about doing that?

A: Well, one of the things that we're trying to do is have public outings, and especially near schools, or with schools, and start with children who are younger. They're getting a lot more environmental education now in schools than they used to, and so a lot of the teachers and the kids are pretty excited about conservation, and animals and wildlife habitats and stuff like that, that they really didn't used to get. So, for example, the Harkins Preserve in Auburn, it's next to – what school is that.

Q: I think I've been up there, but I don't know the school's name either.

A: Sherwood Heights, I think, and Molly Marquand (*sounds like*) has been working there

this year and doing an invasive study, and that's where the kids from Sherwood Heights go, they have a nature trail so their teachers go out and students like Molly will go out and take them on field trips. And so that's a whole cohort of kids that are growing up, and hopefully staying in the community or staying nearby, who will have an appreciation to conserve land. And the same thing with the Land Lab, and just trying to speak to people, get articles in the paper, write brochures, tell people what we're doing and why. We could always do more, but getting positive publicity is really important. The Source to the Sea Trek is important, I don't know whether you've seen the poster. It changed this year, though, it's actually a fund raiser for Androscoggin River Watershed Coalition, but they're not doing the whole river this year either, because they were losing so much money on it. So now it's only four weekends, but they're still doing it.

Q: They're doing significant chunks, right? I was thinking about doing at least some of that.

A: And I also wanted to do the whole thing. Hopefully by the time I retire they'll go back to doing the whole thing.

Q: Well, if they raise enough money this year, hopefully.

A: Yeah, maybe they will. But they're at least doing the Gulf Island Plan section, and that is pretty special, so.

Q: Right, it's an important part to be looking at as well.

A: It is, especially for us, right here.

Q: Well, if you had anything else. That's the end of my questions, but if you have anything else you'd like to say, or anything else you think is important, I'd love to hear it. It doesn't have to be right now, but if at any point there's something you feel like is important that I should know.

A: Well, I guess one thing I did want to mention, is that I think we have a great partnership with – and there are a lot of groups that are working on different aspects of it, and Susan Hayward at Thorncrag is really involved, and ARA and L-A Trails, and the Androscoggin Land Trust, and I'm sure I'm forgetting things, but it seems like just in the last year or so we started working together on some of these projects, like the 13-acre parcel behind Marden's, where everyone's pushing together to get in conserved. And I've really been encouraged by that, because I think we all want the same thing. We may have a little different focus on what kind of thing we want for it, but by working together we're so much stronger than working in our own little silos.

Q: Why do you think it's gotten together all of a sudden?

A: Well, the membership overlaps a lot, and I think we just realized that there aren't very many of us and we need to be more, and we've had a few people like Neil Roy or like Jonathan Labonte who really do want to work together too, and are part of several organizations. And

Susan Hayward, too. And so with the leaders of these groups saying we want to work together and let's see what we can do, that's bringing the memberships together too.

Q: What group does Jonathan Labonte -?

A: He's a Friends of the Androscoggin Land Trust (*unintelligible*).

Q: It's coalition building forces, you'd say?

A: Yeah, I think so, I think they all realize that we have to work together to get these things done. And it just makes sense. I hope we continue. And looking at it as a region, too. I know there's a group at Bowdoin that's very interested in the Merrymeeting Bay part and New Brunswick end of the Androscoggin, and so there's a Mellon Grant actually that's just been written and funded to get people from Colby, Bowdoin and Bates together on having seminars and stuff about the river. And Ben Johnson's involved with it, and Holly Ewing, and David Scobey and Camille, and (*name*) is still involved in it. He's going to be working at Colby next year, so yeah.

Q: This is going to take place this coming year?

A: Uh-huh.

Q: And they're going to be inviting people in to talk about it, or themselves?

A: I'm not sure how it's going to take form yet, whether it's going to be mostly for faculty members of the colleges, or whether it's public.

Q: I hope not. I really hope it's a public thing.

A: Yeah, I do too. It would really help them to have it as something that will bring more people to know more about it, and learn more. That's all I can think of for now. But it's always changing, more and more all the time. I'm glad you're focusing this on it. Another thing is having people like you who are interested and are pulling it together. We have all these things over all the years, there are little pieces of research on the Androscoggin, and information about the Androscoggin, that has no particular home anywhere. And I know that's one thing we talked about at a meeting I went to of the Androscoggin River Watershed Coalition, that it would be really nice to have like all the documents in one place where somebody who's doing research can go. And maybe that's Bates archives. It seems kind of logical, here we are, right on it.

Q: With Muskie.

A: Yeah, with Muskie and with Dr. Lawrence and stuff. But nobody's really pulled that all together yet.

Q: I remember hearing some talk about wanting to form some sort of institute, Androscoggin Institute.

A: That would be a great idea.

Q: Especially because it seems, I mean from my perspective anyway, that people are becoming a little more aware of its importance, not just for advocacy work but also in the fact that Lewiston's redeveloping around it, and it just seems more lively to me.

A: It does to me, too. Good time to be here.

Q: I guess so. I hope so. Well great, thank you very much, Judy.

A: Oh, you're welcome.

End of Interview

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