



## Maine: Good Reads Selected by the Gulf of Maine Post

Many thanks to Ernie Godshalk for putting out the call to the Gulf of Maine Post for suggestions and to Jane Babbitt, Amy Jordan, Bob Rubadeau, Maggie Salter, Brad Willauer, and Ernie for their contributions.

Many of the titles below have numerous publishers, editions and reprints. If the member suggesting a title has stated a preference for a particular edition it has been noted.

### Cruising Guides

A more comprehensive list of cruising guides will be included in your 2024 Down East Cruise Book. The following two titles are favorites.

The Cruising Club of America. ***CCA Online Cruising Guide to Maine.***

“Most cruising guides list hundreds of places to visit. We simplify your planning by highlighting only the best harbors and anchorages while providing essential information and opinions.

Dozens of CCA members use their wide-ranging experiences to curate these lists. Facts are updated continuously throughout the year using local knowledge to keep this your most up-to-date resource”

Taft, Hank and Jan, Curtis Rindlaub. ***A Cruising Guide to the Maine Coast.*** This guide had several publishers and editions between 1988 and 2017.

A Gulf of Maine Post member offers the following; “This guide has lots of interesting reading in addition to its harbor info” The guide is out of print now but it’s worth borrowing, or buying a used copy. Any edition will do.

### Cruising/Cruising Philosophy

Duncan, Roger F. ***Eastward: A Maine Cruise in a Friendship Sloop.*** Blackberry Books, 1995.

From Bob Rubadeau; “Any Duncan book would be something every sailor and crew participant would enjoy. My favorite is *Eastward*. It traces a large swath of the planned 2024 cruise. His perspective is priceless as he cruises with his wife Mary aboard *Eastward*. Not so much has changed in navigating these waters during the past fifty years.”



Carter, Robert. **Carter's Coast of New England: A new edition of A Summer Cruise on the Coast of New England.** New Hampshire Publishing Co, 1977.

Paul Rogers offers us this title. "The book covers a summer cruise from Provincetown to Bar Harbor in 1858. Many of our favorite harbors were visited. The amount and varieties of fish they caught is unbelievable!"

Rubadeau, Robert, J. **Bound For Roque Island: Sailing Maine and the World**, Second Edition. Beacon Hill Publishers, 2015.

CCA member Bob Rubadeau has written this wonderful book that will transport you down east. Herb McCormack, former Editor of *Cruising World Magazine* says "It's a fine read, a tale of adventure, and a father's journey but ultimately a terrific sailing story, lovingly told."

### **Coastal Maine History**

Conkling, Philip W. **Islands in Time.** Down East Books, First Edition, 1981.

Maggie Salter, who suggested this title, prefers the first edition "for the geologic, natural and social history of these islands. It will greatly improve your voyage."

Duncan, Roger F. **Coastal Maine: A Maritime History.** W. W. Norton & Company, Inc, 1992.

Brad Willauer notes "As we all know, Roger could tell a story, and that's what he's done in this fabulous book. We would read it to the kids to let them know something about where they were anchored."

Gabrielson, Mark J. **Deer Isle's Undefeated America's Cup Crews: Humble Heroes from a Downeast Island.** The History Press, 2013.

Our own Mark Gabrielson has written this captivating book about Deer Isle's fisherman sailors. "In 1895, emissaries from the New York Yacht Club traveled to Deer Isle, Maine, to recruit the nation's best sailors, an "All American" crew. Undefeated in two defense campaigns, (1895 & 1899), they are still considered one of the best American sail-racing teams ever assembled."

Woodard, Colin. **The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier.** Penguin Books, 2005.

"A thorough and engaging history of Maine's rocky coast and its tough-minded people." -Boston Herald



## Non-Fiction/Essays

Corson, Trevor. ***The Secret Life of Lobsters: How Fishermen and Scientists Are Unraveling the Mysteries of Our Favorite Crustacean.*** HarperCollins, 2004.

“Part popular science, part social history, *The Secret Life of Lobsters* provides a glimpse into the quirkiness of scientific endeavors and fosters an awareness of how our oceans can be harvested sustainably.” HarperCollins

Crossman, Phil. ***Away Happens.*** University Press of New England, 2005.

“Crossman has artfully dissected the distinctions between island natives and other residents in his book *Away Happens*, a supremely wry and antic chronicle of island life.” Set on Vinalhaven.

White, E. B. ***One Man’s Meat.*** Harper & Bros., 1942.

*One Man’s Meat* is a collection of essays written by E. B. White for Harper’s between 1938-1942. They detail, among other things, White’s observations on daily life on a Maine saltwater farm. Set in Brooklin (overlooking Eggemoggin Reach).

## Fiction

Clark, Bruce. ***Tales of Maritime Maine: The Vanished Years of the Maine Coast Brought to Life in Three Absorbing Tales.*** Yankee Books, 1987.

Jane Babbitt, *CCA Online Cruising Guide to Maine* Editor and retired librarian, has provided us with a wide variety of Maine-related fiction. This entry, *Tales of Maritime Maine*, she gives us for “atmospheric history.”

DeMarco, Tom. ***Dark Harbor House.*** Down East Books, 2001.

“Bring together a wonderfully varied mix of characters in a once-grand Maine island summer cottage, leave them to their own devices over the course of a long, idyllic summer in the late 1940’s, and you have all the ingredients for a fine comedy of manners.”

Gilley, Jan. ***Light on Jib Island.*** Maine Author’s Publishing, 2013.

“In the early 1920’s the Bartons were a lightkeeping family on Jib Island several miles off the Maine coast. The adventures of the four Barton children and their parents in this isolated place are snapshots of the real lives of those who kept the lights burning to make travel safer for the many boats that sailed



the cold and treacherous Maine waters.” A NIEA Award Winner, this book would be appreciated by young and old alike.

Harding, Paul. ***This Other Eden***. W. W. Norton & Company, 2023.

According to Jane Babbitt, if you’re sailing past the New Meadows River or you’re interested in a hot topic in Maine’s history this book may be for you. “***This Other Eden*** is inspired by the real-life consequences of eugenics on Malaga Island, Maine, which, from roughly the Civil War era to 1912, was home to an interracial fishing village.” –Maureen Corrigan, NPR

Ogilvie, Elisabeth. ***Tide Trilogy***. Thomas Crowell, 1944-1947.

“The struggles, hardship, and joy of one woman’s life on a Maine island are brought to life in this haunting and enduringly popular Tide Trilogy. Elisabeth Ogilvie tells the story of Joanna Bennett and her colorful life on Bennett’s Island with a sensitivity and truthfulness born of her own early years on isolated Criehaven, the real Bennett’s Island.” -Harvard Book Store

### **Thriller/Crime/Mystery**

Doiron, Paul. ***The Imposter***. MacMillan Publishers, 2020.

This short story, set in “Roque Harbor”, is just one of the many Mike Bowditch mysteries written by Paul Doiron. Editor Emeritus of Down East: The Magazine of Maine, Doiron has set his best-selling mystery novels all over Maine, not just down east.

Dobyns, Stephen. ***A Boat Off the Coast***. Penguin Books, 1989.

Dobyns has created a suspenseful read about drug-smuggling on the coast of Maine. “Well crafted and watertight, Dobyns’ novel gets its considerable impact not so much from the tense action as from the fate of its credibly flawed characters.” -John Blades, Chicago Tribune

Gerritsen, Tess. ***The Spy Coast: A Thriller***. Thomas & Mercer, 2023.

Jane Babbitt, who recommends this title, suggests that such a story might not be that far-fetched in the town she calls home... “A retired CIA operative in small-town Maine tackles the ghosts of her past in this fresh take on the spy thriller from New York Times bestselling author Tess Gerritsen” Set in Camden.



White, Adam. ***The Midcoast***. Hogarth, 2022.

“The story of a family of lobstermen who skyrocket from poverty to wealth, a local writer obsessed with their rise, and the small-town secrets that bind them all together.” -Hogarth Books

## Kids

Martin, Charles E., ***Island Winter***. Greenwillow Books, 1984.

Charles E. Martin, most well known as an illustrator for the New Yorker, also wrote books for children. Five of the books are set on an island much like Monhegan where Martin and his wife had a home. ***Island Winter*** (1984), ***Summer Business*** (1984), ***Island Rescue*** (1985), ***For Rent*** (1986) and ***Sam Saves the Day*** (1987).

McCloskey, John Robert. ***Burt Dow, Deep-water Man: A Tale of the Sea in the Classic Tradition***. Viking Press, 1963.

Robert McCloskey wrote and illustrated eight picture books, four of which were set in Maine; ***Blueberries for Sal*** (1948), ***One Morning in Maine*** (1952), ***Time of Wonder*** (1957, which won the Caldecott Medal), and ***Burt Dow, Deep-water Man***. Not a bad one in the lot.

Schmidt, Gary. ***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy***. Clarion Books, 2004.

A 2005 Newbury Honor Book, ***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*** is a historical novel set in Phippsburg. Jane Babbitt lists this as “An excellent YA book.” See ***This Other Eden***, above.

Van Dusen, Chris. ***Big Truck Little Island***. Candlewick Press, 2022.

Chris Van Dusen, a native Mainer, has written and illustrated a number of children’s books. At least three of Chris’ books take place on islands or in boats in Maine. Keep on the lookout for ***Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee*** (2000), ***The Circus Ship*** (2009) and ***Big Truck Little Island***.



### **For Your Listening Pleasure**

Among other suggestions, Maggie Salter recommends the following;

Use Pandora to listen to sea chanties by **Gordon Bok** (who lives in Camden.)

**Bert and I** stories by Marshall Dodge and Robert Bryan. Here's a link [Bert and I](#)

The humor of **Tim Sample**.

### **THE END**

If we've left out any of your favorites, the list is easily amended so feel free to contact me with your suggestions!

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