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## News Release

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### **NMCC library invites community to take part in “Let’s Talk About It” book group**

**Aroostook County** - The E. Perrin Edmunds Library at Northern Maine Community College is inviting the community to join in the “Let’s Talk About It” book group, a free reading and discussion series that will run from mid-September through early November.

NMCC was selected by the Maine Humanities Council to offer “Let’s Talk About It,” which, this fall, will focus on the theme “Defining Wilderness: Defining Maine.” The series, developed for the Humanities Council by historian Candace Kanen, examines the Maine wilderness, how various people have experienced it and written about it, and how those accounts have influenced Maine and shaped its identity.

“Northern Maine is the ideal location to explore the concept of wilderness and the various perspectives from several authors. We are grateful to the MHC and look forward to hosting this reading series,” said Gail Roy, NMCC assistant dean of learning resources and coordinator of the local group. “Through ‘Let’s Talk About It’ we will discuss what constitutes the wilderness, the relationship between humans and the natural environment, about conservation and ecology, and not least about our personal relationship to the wilderness.”

According to Roy, five sessions will be held as part of the series in which participants will discuss a different book each time. All five books are available through the Edmunds Library at NMCC. Interested participants are encouraged to stop by the library during regular business hours to pick up the books.

The opening session for the “Let’s Talk About It” book group will be held on Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Edmunds Library at NMCC. David Raymond, NMCC humanities instructor, will lead the discussion on Henry David Thoreau’s *The Maine Woods*.

The second session, which will be led by Jennifer Graham, NMCC English instructor, will take place on Thursday, October 8, at 12:00 noon in the College library. Participants will have read and will discuss *The Wilderness from Chamberlain Farm: A Story of Hope for the American Wild* by Dean Bennett.

*Fly Rod Crosby: the Woman Who Marketed Maine* by Julia A. Hunter and Earle G Shettleworth, Jr. will be the featured text for discussion at the third meeting in the series, which will be held on Friday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Edmunds Library, and will be led by Misty Robinson, NMCC graduate and Roy.

The final two sessions will be held on Tuesday, October 27, and Monday, November 9, both at 12:00 noon in the Edmunds Library. The October 27 discussion will be led by area forester Tim Scott and will focus on the book *Campfires Rekindled* by George S. Kephart. The November 9 discussion will be led by Jan Greico, NMCC English instructor, and will center on the book *We Took to the Woods* by Louise Dickinson Rich.

“Exploring ideas and issues through literature has always been exciting and fun,” said Lizz Sinclair, director of “Let’s Talk About It.” “We find that there is a great interest among adults in getting together to discuss what they’ve read with others. Having discussion leaders at Northern Maine Community College who are both excited about the readings and skilled in facilitating can help deepen the experience.”

Books for the program are available for loan at the NMCC library. Interested community members are encouraged to call the library at 768-2734 to register and come in to pick up the first book of the series. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

The “Let’s Talk About It” program is offered to Maine libraries through the Maine Humanities Council by a grant from the Belvedere Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.

For more information on the NMCC series, contact Roy at 768-2734 or by e-mail at [groy@nmcc.edu](mailto:groy@nmcc.edu). For more information about “Let’s Talk About It” and the work of the Maine Humanities Council see [www.mainehumanities.org](http://www.mainehumanities.org) or call the office in Portland at 773-5051.

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