

MacMahan Reads has scheduled two books discussion events for summer 2014.

On July 17, 2014, we will meet at the cottage of Erin Stone at 9:30 a.m. to discuss *Shoutin' Into the Fog: Growing up on Maine's Ragged Edge* by Thomas Hanna

*Shoutin' Into the Fog* is a gritty Depression-era memoir of life in Midcoast Maine. Author Thomas Hanna, a longtime resident of Bath, grew up in the village of Five Islands on Georgetown Island, in a small, crowded bungalow pieced together on the edge of a swamp with secondhand wood and cardboard. He was the eldest son and the second of eight children born to his young mother and his father, a World War I veteran big on dreams, but low on luck. Drawing on insight gleaned from his eighty years, Hanna's *Shoutin' Into the Fog* is a book written with sensitivity, humor, and subtle emotion about a hardscrabble way of life, old-time Maine, and the meaning of both family and forgiveness. His personal tale casts an honest light not only on his own family, but helps illuminate a way of life common to the coast in the 1920s and 1930s that is slowly fading from memory.

On August 14, 2014, we will meet at the cottage of Joan Hamilton at 9:30 a.m. to discuss *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout.

In *The Burgess Boys*, novelist Elizabeth Strout (author of the Pulitzer prize winner, *Olive Kitteridge*) revisits the themes and types of characters that have made her famous: plainspoken Mainers (some transplanted now to Brooklyn) bound together by both love, competitiveness and the issues of the day. Here, hotshot lawyer Jim and bighearted Bob Burgess come together over a politically incorrect prank perpetrated by their sister's son--and discover that their distrust of each other has never really gone away. But then, neither has their love. Nobody does buried conflict and tortured familial relations better than Strout. --*Sara Nelson*