



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Celebrate our Local and Migratory Birds

May 12-19 **CATHY MORGAN BIRD WEEK.**

All walks start at 7:00 am. No pets please. FMI: 338-1147.



tufted titmouse

Dan Avener

Sat. May 12- Sears Island. Meet on the causeway at the gate. Warblers galore and more.

Sun. May 13- Paddle and bird Upper Mason Pond, Swan Lake Ave., Belfast. Meet at the public boat launch on Rt. 141. Bring kayak or canoe, paddle, PFD. Water and forest birds.

Mon. May 14- Head of Tide Preserve, 85 Doak Road, Belfast. Prairie warblers and many more.

7:30 pm: Woodcock Party, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. Thanhauser-Chunn farm.

Tues. May 15- 7:00 am: Thanhauser-Chunn Farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville.

7:30 pm: Rain date for Woodcock Party.

Wed. May 16- Ducktrap River, Rt. 52, Lincolnville. Blackburnian warblers and many more.

Thur. May 17- In-Town Nature Trail. Meet at the Muck in Belfast. Warblers, pond and forest birds.

Fri. May 18- Rocky Knoll Tract of Meadow Brook Preserve, 397 Oak Hill Road, Swanville.

Sat. May 19- Hauk-Fry Tract of Meadow Brook Preserve, 325 Oak Hill Road, Swanville.

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Programs

Thursday, May 17. “Grasses of Forest, Farm, and Wetland.” 6:30 pm. Belfast Library. Matt Arsenault, co-author of *Grasses of Maine*, 2018, will introduce us to grasses of Maine’s natural environment, the ecological benefits they provide (and problems they create), more common species, and examples of some rare and unique species of conservation concern. He will also introduce us to rushes, a much smaller group of grass-like plants. To be followed by a grass field trip on Sat., June 23, 10:00-12:00, at 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville.

Wed., June 13, “Climate History of Penobscot Bay and Future Projections.” Dr. Sean Birkel, Maine State Climatologist with the Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, will give intriguing history of the bay freezing over during some winters of the 1800s and early 1900s, and will share predictions for future climate. **4:00 pm** at Penobscot Shores Retirement Community, 10 Shoreland Dr., off Rt. 1, Belfast. FMI: 338-2332.

Thurs., June 14, “Millennial Changes in the Penobscot Bay Ecosystem.” Dr. Robert Steneck, Darling Marine Research Center, Univ. of Maine, will speak about changes in the Penobscot Bay ecosystem since the first Native Americans arrived on North Haven nearly 5000 years ago. The program is at **7:00 pm** at Waterfall Arts, 256 High St., Belfast. FMI: 338-2222.

Gratitude for Lucy Carver

BBWC has lost a founding member, Lucy Carver, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day. We give thanks for Lucy’s dedication and service as one of our first leaders.

When Lucy graduated from the Penobscot Bay Stewards course in the late 1990’s, she, along with Skip and Jo Pendleton, Joan and Maynard Clemons, started the Passy Coalition, centered on the Passagassawakeag River. A well-known local artist and professional cartographer, Lucy created the Passy Coalition’s logo of a sturgeon in reference to the meaning of the name.

A couple of years later, thinking of the larger watershed, the name was changed to BBWC. Lucy was our first secretary. With the transition to BBWC, we held a contest to design a new logo. When a 3-way tie put us in a tight position, Lucy took elements from all three winning designs, combining them into the familiar logo displayed on watershed signs posted on every road that enters the Belfast Bay watershed. Lucy also hand-made beautiful maps, exquisitely detailed, of the Belfast Bay watersheds, as well as a lifetime of maps she made professionally.

Lucy’s artwork leaves a legacy of lifelike images of nature, among other drawings and paintings. Her gulls seem to fly up out of the frame, and the leaves of her plants reach out in three dimensions, inviting to pick.

Lucy was fun to work with, always wise and thoughtful, positive and good-humored. Our community is better because Lucy Carver lived among us.



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Letter from Our President

Dear Members,

The City of Belfast has an opportunity for a new business, Nordic Aquafarms, which is causing concern to many citizens. Most questions and concerns cannot be answered at this time. Rezoning of land is the first of many steps. Once Nordic Aquafarms does more on-site investigation, additional information should be available regarding what they want to do.

Several BBWC Board members have been asked by you, our membership, "Where does BBWC stand on Nordic Aquafarms building the largest indoor salmon farm in the world, in Belfast?" Here are some preliminary comments: 1) The BBWC board has no position at this time. We feel that too little is known now to make a statement. 2) We are a non-profit organization. We are looking into the legality of taking a position either for or against Nordic Aquafarms. Our mission statement is the following: "The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition supports conservation and stewardship of natural and public resources of the Belfast Bay watershed through research, community-building, and education." As the process unfolds for Nordic Aquafarms to establish a water supply, obtain a discharge permit, and meet other DEP regulations, the board will continue to follow the course of events, and will keep the membership updated as to BBWC's position in the future.

On another matter, please remember that trail maintenance is always needed— not only the Little River Trail, but also all the great properties that Coastal Mountain Land Trust is responsible for. CMLT is striving to raise \$75,000 for the Skip Pendleton Endowment Fund for a Waldo County stewardship intern. We anticipate this person will work on trails throughout greater Belfast, not just on Land Trust land. I encourage folks to go to the Coastal Mountain Land Trust website, click on the photo of Skip & Jo Pendleton, and that link will allow you to donate directly to the reserve fund.

Thank You for your continued support.

Tom King, President, BBWC

Volunteers Needed for Head of Tide Permaculture Site

Come learn and participate in our monthly forest garden and trail work parties at Head of Tide Permaculture Site. Held on the first Saturday of every month. For 2018 that is: **May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, Sept 1, and Oct 6** at 9:00 am with a potluck social at 11:00 am, at Head of Tide Preserve, 85 Doak Road, Belfast, a Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserve.

Work may include: woodchip bucket and wheelbarrow brigade, lasagna gardening, planting tree guild companion plants, weeding, removing invasive plants that could shade and crowd the gardens and guilds, watering, and cleaning up debris.

Things to bring:

- 1) You, in yard work clothes and gloves.
- 2) Helpful tools to bring include: 5-gallon buckets, long-handled loppers. (Label the tools that you want to bring home!)
- 3) Picnic table snack to share (optional).
- 4) Bring your own full water bottle or beverages. Lawn chairs (optional).

Join us while we learn more about how our actions can build community and improve the environment. We also need volunteer organizers, event hosts and educators!

FMI: Karin Wittmann@ kwttmnn@gmail.com or info@belfastbaywatershed.org

Outings

FMI: 338-1147

Cathy Morgan Bird Week, May 12-19, see page 1.

June 9, Sat. **Paddle from the Belfast Boathouse to Moose Point.** Paddle back after picnic lunch and short hike. 6 miles roundtrip paddling. Meet at the Boathouse at 10:00 am. We'll return to Boathouse by 3:30 pm. Trip depends on fair weather.

June 23, Sat. **Learn your Grasses** on a field trip with Matt Arsenault, co-author of *Grasses of Maine*, from 10:00-12:00 at the Thanhauser-Chunn farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville.

July 13, Fri. **Learn your Ferns** on a walk with Hildy Ellis from 10:00-12:00 at the Stover Preserve, CMLT, 84 Doak Road, Belfast.

BBWC wishes to thank all our individual members whose support makes our work happen!

Thank you, Business Members!

G.O. Logic

Little River Veterinary Hospital

Belfast Veterinary Hospital

Coyote Moon

Waldo County Soil and Water

Front Street Shipyard

Bay City Cargo

Darby's Restaurant

Three Tides

Downeast Outing Club

Athena Health

Searsport Shores Campground

Rollie's Bar and Grill

BBWC Board of Directors

Tom King, President

Karin Wittmann, Vice President

Cloe Chunn, Secretary

Gene Randall, Treasurer

David Bond

Ernie Cooper

Barney Lutsk

Marianne Randall

John Tipping

Staff

Alice Seeger, Publicity and Website

Subscribe on-line

to this newsletter and monthly reminders of activities on our website

www.belfastbaywatershed.org or send an e-mail to info@belfastbaywatershed.org

Visit our website **Calendar** for

updates on outings and programs that did not make it into the newsletter.

Members invited

Come jump on board and help expand and strengthen our work in the community and watershed. Visit our website, call a board member, or email us at

info@belfastbaywatershed.org

Mission: The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition works to support conservation and stewardship of natural, scenic, and public access resources of the Belfast Bay watershed through research, community-building, and education.