



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

“Look at this cash register drawer yells a 7th grader, picking up a large object on the beach in East Belfast.

September 25th was Troy Howard Middle School’s day joining the Maine Coastal Clean-up Week. The 7th grade (110 students), teachers, parents, and 12 volunteers from the BBWC scoured the Belfast shoreline from the Little River on the Northport line eastward almost to the Searsport line.

Teams worked the shoreline clean-up and glued storm drain markers on nearly 100 storm drains in town to educate people that storm drains connect directly to the bay and anything except rainwater is harmful down a storm drain.

Bag lunches and nature observations filled out the day’s activities before the students returned to school, carrying trash bags to inventory type and source of debris, weight, and counts. These figures were turned in to the state analysis of Coastal Clean-up week.

Students expressed pride in helping their community and their place.



Figure 1: Clean-up Crew



Figure 2: Attaching drain warnings

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Programs

Our evening programs are in the Abbot Room, Belfast Free Library. Programs are free and open to the community.

Note: no December program

Thursday, Jan 16, 2020 6:30 PM

Annual Meeting, Volunteer Appreciation, Round-up

Join us for refreshments, appreciating the work of our many volunteers, a brief annual meeting to elect board members, and a summary of the year's activities.

Thursday, Feb 20, 2020 6:30 PM

Mark Dittrick of the Right Whale Alliance, will present on whales in the Gulf of Maine, with an in-depth look at Right Whales. Mark will update us on the current status of the right whale with regard to its population which has experienced a significant decline. He will also look at efforts to reverse this trend.



Thursday, Mar 19, 2020 6:30 PM

Alejandro C. Strong, Registered Maine Guide and philosophy professor, will discuss *Meaning in Nature Stories: a wilderness guide reflecting on connection and place*. Program will delve into our human relationship with nature.

Thursday, Apr 16, 2020 6:30 PM

The Fun of Meeting Grasses and Sedges. Matt Arsenault, botanist, will teach us how to recognize, identify, and appreciate the grasses and sedges we live live with.

Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:30 PM

Belfast Area High School students will present their experimental research on environmental effects of invasive species and pollution.

They will discuss who's eating juvenile clams in Belfast Bay and what effect micro plastics have on the feeding rate of zooplankton.

Water Research in the Belfast Bay Watershed... and Beyond

BBWC engages in five forms of research to understand the science and nature of Belfast Bay and its watershed. The bay is part of North Penobscot Bay influenced by the 4 watersheds draining into Belfast Bay and also the entire Penobscot River watershed coming into North Penobscot Bay.

Records show that Maine’s precipitation has increased considerably in the recent two decades, changing water chemistry in the Gulf of Maine. Climate change is also affecting river and gulf temperatures, sea level rise, and harsher storm wave action. BBWC is engaged in initiatives to assess and understand all these changes.

BBWC has joined the Maine Coastal Observing Alliance (MCOA). By working together the goal is to provide a regional perspective of estuarine water quality through sharing of resources and expertise and implementation of coordinated water sampling program.

The second regional water sampling program BBWC participated in was “Shell Day.” This one day data collection blitz sought to determine acidification patterns in near-coastal waters.

The third research program is monitoring storm surge sensors monthly, year round, as part of a UMaine study of two bays, of which North Penobscot is one. With our data and others, UMaine is able to understand the physics and changes in storm surge heights.

Fourth program is BBWC volunteers testing water quality in Belfast Bay each week, at both high tide and low tide. Data is reported to the

DEP to establish a baseline which did not exist before.

Finally BBWC pays for a professional water quality evaluation every three years in the Passagassawakeag River and Wescot Stream.

To learn more or get involved, please visit www.BelfastBayWatershed.org

Reminder

Dates for winter bird watch from the footbridge. Rain or shine. Sleet or snow.

All dates 8-10 AM

- Wed Dec 18
- Thurs Jan 16
- Sat Feb 15
- Sat Mar 14
- Sat Apr 11

Business Partners

- Darby’s Restaurant
- Front Street Shipyard
- Little River Veterinary Hospital
- GO Logic
- Coyote Moon
- Waldo County Soil and Water
- Greenleaf Partners
- Fruits of Our Labors
- Belfast Veterinary Hospital
- Maine OCA Fund
- North Twin Education Programs
- Friends of Sears Island

Grant Partners

- New England Grassroots Environmental Fund
- Ferguson Foundation
- Onion Foundation

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Outings

FMI: 338-1147

Dec 7. Sat. Hike the Hills to Sea Trail out and back from Waldo Tech Center on Rte 137 in Waldo. Meet at 10 at Tech Center in school parking lot. Hike 1 mile to Bonne Terre Road. Return by way of new trail the WCTC Outdoor Leadership students have made. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, appropriate boots/shoes.

Jan 11. Sat. Outdoor fun, potluck, and social at the farm of Cloe and David, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. Bring ice skates, snowshoes, skis, potluck dish. Choice of activities, 10-12. Or just arrive at noon for potluck. 338-1147 for directions.

Feb 8. Sat. Ski, snowshoe, or skate Knights Pond with Margo Burnham and Kenneth Kornfield. Meet at 10 at the end of Knights Pond Road, in the parking lot by the pond. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, and ice skates, skis, or snowshoes, according to conditions. FMI 301 320-1145

Mar 14,Sat. Ski or snowshoe Meadow Brook Preserve in Swanville from Bessey Tract on Rt 141 to Hauk-Fry Tract on Oak Hill Road, about 3 miles. Bring water, lunch, and warm layers. Meet at 10 at the Swanville Transfer Station on Rt 141 Swan Lake Avenue. FMI 785-2028

Apr 11 Sat Rail Trail Walk. Meet at the Belfast Footbridge at 10 AM to explore the local bird scene, then enjoy a walk to the train station and back along the Passagassawakeag (4.5 miles) We will end with optional lunch at the Front Street Pub. FMI Debbie Murphy 603-289-1637

BBWC Board of Directors

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Subscribe on-line to this newsletter and monthly reminders of activities on our website

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

or send an email to

info@belfastbaywatershed.org

Visit our website **Calendar** for updates on outings and programs that did not make it into the newsletter.

New 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.