



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Pen Bay Stewards Youth Division, a new initiative



In May-June 2018 we are running a pilot program for middle school students in eastern Waldo County. A group of local 7th and 8th graders from Troy Howard and Searsport Middle Schools have been invited to apply for this initiative which will embrace outdoor experiences with an emphasis on the function and importance of watersheds, specifically the North Penobscot Bay Watershed.

Led by Pen Bay Steward/BBWC board members Karin Wittmann and Cloe Chunn, design involves other adult volunteer leaders from the Pen Bay Stewards, BBWC, Waldo County Trails Coalition, Come Boating, and Waldo County Soil and Water CD. Waldo County General Hospital will provide healthy lunches each day. There is no cost to participants.

The program consists of 3 all-day hikes of 6 to 8 miles on the Hills to Sea Trail, with the final leg into Belfast on the Rail Trail. Following the hike through the watershed, the group spends a morning rowing with Come Boating! and a group service project for the Bay. On the final day, the group will have an experience in the Bay at Searsport Shores Ocean Campground learning about the intertidal zone and marine science, contributing to the environment, and wrapping up with a picnic and graduation celebration.

For a decade, BBWC planners have been dreaming of making the successful adult Pen Bay Steward Program available for younger generations. If this pilot project is successful, such a program could become a yearly happening, perhaps growing into more than is offered this year.

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

Programs begin at 6:30 pm and end around 8:00 pm.

March 15, Thursday. **Geology of Maine and the Mid-Coast.**

Geologists Amber and Tom Whittaker will give us the bedrock and glacial history of our area through time. In 2017 they led us on a walk of the Rail Trail, pointing out geological clues to our past. Now they will return to fill us in on our tectonic history moving from the southern hemisphere to our present location, the crumpling and splitting of the continents, glacial modifications, and current processes.

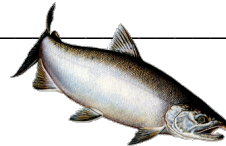
April 19, Thursday. **The State of Maine's Environment, Current and Future.**

Lisa Pohlmann, PhD, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, will update us on what is happening to Maine's landscape, and what may happen in the near future. NRCM is Maine's premier conservation watchdog, without which the state would be very different.

May 17, Thursday. **Grasses of Maine.**

Back by popular demand, Matt Arsenault, co-author of *Grasses of Maine*, will teach us with pictures and live specimens, the grasses we can expect to see as we walk around our area. Last year Matt taught us from his book *Sedges of Maine*. The new book on grasses will be published in time for the program. A Grass Walk will follow in summer.

Salmon News



BBWC President Tom King has delivered salmon eggs to 12 schools participating in the Salmon-in-Schools Program. Students at each school care for 200 eggs for three months as they grow into fry. When the fry are ready, students release them into Wescot Stream, a tributary of the Passagassawakeag that is not dammed. Unimpeded by barriers, but still at great odds, the fry when mature enough after 3 years, will be able to run to the sea where they will spend several years feeding off Greenland before returning to their natal Wescot Stream to spawn.

Support our business members:

Coyote Moon

Front Street Shipyard

Little River Veterinary Hospital

Bay City Cargo

Searsport Shores Ocean Campground

DownEast Outing Club

Belfast Veterinary Hospital

Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation

Little River Trail Restoration

For twelve years the Little River Community Trail has served our local community as a venue for healthy exercise and fresh air in a natural setting, even wild in some of its stretches. Due to its popularity with many hikers and runners, the bog bridges are in need of replacement.



We hope to find a grant to purchase 180 planks of 3" thick cedar twelve feet long, plus hardware for installation. This amounts to over \$7000.

Once a grant is obtained and planks are purchased, a team of "ants," volunteers carrying in planks, two at a time, will be needed. If this fits your idea of fun, and we know it will be a blast, then let our trail crew know by calling 218-1183.

Thanks to generous members who renew their memberships, BBWC can afford part of the cost of the new bridges, but not nearly all of it.

Anyone interested in donating to the trail replacement fund may mail a check to:

BBWC, P.O. Box 152, Belfast, 04915



All photos by Trail Crew member Bill Armstrong.

Above: Looking down on the Little River gorge

Left: Bridge between Troy Howard Middle School and Bank of America



Outings

FMI: 338-1147.

March 10, Sat. 10:00-12:00. **The Nature of the Belfast Rail Trail** with Steve Byers, herbalist, naturalist. Meet at Rail Trail parking on outer High St. No pets please.

March 22, Thur. 8:00-10:00 am. **Harbor Bird Watch** from the Belfast Footbridge.

April 14, Sat. 9:00-12:00. **Hike the Hills to Sea Trail** from the Oak Hill Road Train Station to Rt. 137. Rugged terrain, 4.5 miles. Meet at the train station. Bring water, snacks, rain gear, hiking poles.

April 20, Friday. 8:00-10:00 am. **Harbor Bird Watch** from the Belfast Footbridge with Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian

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

All walks start at 7:00 am. No pets please.

Sat. May 12- Sears Island

Sun. May 13- Paddle and bird Upper

Mason Pond, Swan Lake Ave., Belfast

Mon. May 14- Head of Tide Preserve, Doak Road, Belfast

Tues. May 15- Thanhauser-Chunn Farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville

Wed. May 16- Ducktrap River, Lincolnville

Thur. May 17- In-Town Nature Trail. Meet at the Muck in Belfast.

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

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

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.

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 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.*