



Belfast Bay  
Watershed

# BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

## Natural Literacy

BBWC has developed curriculum and volunteers to help schools teach natural literacy, engaging students in outdoor programming to fulfill learning standards for science, math, social and communications skills, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

Schools and teachers may contact us for assistance, program planning, and in-service training by emailing our website (below).

Topics such as watershed dynamics and quality, habitat study, nature journaling, nature identification, management planning, invasive species control, intertidal zone life, stream study, bird-friendly landscaping, migrations of animals, can be offered at various grade levels.



## Marine Debris Clean-up

On three days in June and July, BBWC volunteers who had taken the Penobscot Bay Stewards training course engaged a boat and spent the day collecting marine debris in a debris-magnet vortex near Islesboro, and on Sears Island.

We were

shocked when, in April, State Senator Mick Devin spoke to our membership and told us that by 2040, at current rates of accumulation, the Gulf of Maine will contain more debris, by weight, than FISH! This and other learning spurred us to take action.

Besides doing a great service for the fish and other marine organisms in North Penobscot Bay, the stewards had a fun day on the boat trip in beautiful surroundings, enjoying friendships with one another, and feeling the joy of making the bay a little bit cleaner with gratifying work.



Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

[www.belfastbaywatershed.org](http://www.belfastbaywatershed.org)

Screening of **“Sacred Cod”** at the Hutchinson Center on Friday, Sept. 8, at 7:00 pm, followed by a panel discussion of local fishermen and other marine experts. The collapse of the historic cod population throughout New England, the role of overfishing, the impacts of climate change, the effect of government fishing policies all affect the prospect of a region built upon cod having no cod left to fish. Brought to us by the Camden International Film Festival, Down to Earth Storytelling Project, The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, Working Films.

## Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

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

Sept. 13, Wednesday. Book Discussion of *Climate of Hope*, by Carl Pope and Michael Bloomberg led by Beverly Roxby. Best to read the book before the discussion.

Sept. 21, Thursday. **Birds of Belfast.** Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian will report on their surprising 5-year study of birds in the Belfast area. Followed with one community birding event per month (Sept. 24, Oct. 24, Nov. 9, Dec. 9).

Oct. 19, Thursday. **Endocrine disruptors in aquatic ecosystems: What can hormones tell us about the health of Maine’s aquatic environment?**

Dr. Heather Hamlin, UM Dept. of Marine Biology and Aquaculture, investigates how human-induced changes affect the reproduction and development of aquatic animals, and solutions to promote resilience of Maine’s aquatic resources.

Nov. 16, Thursday. **Cyanobacteria and ALS.** [Matthew W. Kruger, Ph.D. candidate, University of Maine, presents his research on the possible connection between Lou Gehrig’s disease and bacteria in Maine lakes.](#)

Dec. 14, Thursday. **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.** Tim Hudson, Superintendent of the National Monument, will give us the story and details, and show slides to acquaint us with this treasure.

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Note: December outing, placed here because no room on page 4:

Saturday, Dec. 16. 10:00-2:00. **Hike Meadow Brook/Hurds Pond Preserve in Swanville** from the Bessey Tract on Rt. 141 to the Hauk-Fry Tract on Oak Hill Road. Meet at 10:00 at the Swanville Transfer Station on Swan Lake Avenue (Rt. 141) in Swanville. Bring warm layers, water, lunch.

Support our business members:

Coyote Moon

Little River Veterinary Hospital

Front Street Shipyard

Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation Dist

Bay City Cargo

Searsport Shores Ocean Campground

Downeast Outing Club

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## Watershed Curriculum at Nickerson School, Swanville

In April, the 4th-5th grade class of Nickerson School engaged in five days of instruction by BBWC volunteers about watershed geography, water quality, pollutants and remedies, culminating with a hike and lunch on the Hawk-Fry Trail of Meadow Brook Preserve in Swanville, a Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserve on Oak Hill Road. To show their appreciation for clean water and land, the class picked up several large bags of litter from the roadside before the litter could wash downhill and contaminate the preserve's soil and water.

We were surprised to find in 50 yards of roadside, among many other items, 22 plastic cups with straws and lids, 18 styrofoam cups, 13 paper cups, 7 beer cans, 30 liquor nips, 19 cigarette packs and 131 cigarette filters. Students were careful to collect all filters after learning about the toxicity of filters, which are designed to trap poisons for the benefit of the smoker. When diluted in water, the toxins bioaccumulate (add up with successive predation) and kill aquatic organisms and other wildlife.

Pictured at right, Nickerson students search through stream water for insect larvae and other life forms. Some insects are indicators of pristine water quality, which was discovered to be the case for water from Red Brook coming out of Hurds Pond, part of the Meadow Brook Preserve in Swanville. Students also found two salamanders, which created a stir.



*Aleta McKeage photo*

## Drinkwater Earth Days, June 1, 2

For the seventh year, 23 BBWC volunteers organized and ran Earth Days for Drinkwater School on June 1 and for East Belfast School on June 2. Both days were low tide days, so students could study tide pool life, the marine clay deposited by the melting glacier, skulls and bones, salmon life cycle, nature watercolor painting, birding with binoculars, stream study, and "Eat a Tree."

*Gene Randall photos*



## Outings

FMI: 338-1147. See additional listing on page 2.

Saturday, Sept. 9. 10:00-3:00. **Paddle the rising tide up the Passagassawakeag R. from the Boathouse to Head of Tide.**

Picnic lunch at Head of Tide Preserve (CMLT). Bring boat, paddle, PFD, water, lunch, protection from sun, rain, wind, ticks. After-action refreshments on the deck of The Nautilus restaurant.

Sunday, Sept. 24. 8:00-10:00 am. **Birds of Belfast Harbor.** Join Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian watching the variety of birds from the east side of the Belfast Footbridge. Learn their markings and behaviors.

Sunday, Oct. 15. 9:00-2:00. **Fall Foliage hike of Frye Mountain**, 6 miles on the Hills to Sea Trail. Meet at Walker Ridge Road off Rt. 220 (Polands Corner) in Montville (Map 14, A-1). Bring water, lunch, rain gear, dress for ticks. Moderate to challenging hike. All ages.

Tuesday, Oct. 24. 8:00-10:00 am. **Birds of Belfast Harbor.** Join Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian watching the variety of birds from the east side of the Belfast Footbridge.

Thursday, Nov. 9. 8:00-10:00 am. **Birds of Belfast Harbor.** Join Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian watching the variety of birds from the east side of the Belfast Footbridge.

Sunday, Nov. 12. 9:30-2:00. **Oyster River Bog hike**, Rockland. 6.5-mile fairly rugged hike through the forested bog. Meet at 9:30 am at Waldo County YMCA outer parking lot to carpool, or meet us at the "Von Saltza Trailhead" on Rt. 90 at 10:15. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, rain gear.

Saturday, Dec. 9. 8:00-10:00 am. **Birds of Belfast Harbor** at the footbridge.

## 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](http://www.belfastbaywatershed.org) or send an e-mail to [info@belfastbaywatershed.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*