

Annual Report

2019 Activity of Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

Membership

- 195 members (defined by making a contribution in the current year)
- 752 names on email list who receive quarterly newsletter and monthly reminders
- 173 people and two other groups volunteered in our efforts (members and non-members)

Educational Programs

- Expanded **Natural Literacy Program**. From January through June served 790 students for 304 program hours, with half-time Educator and 25 volunteers giving 450 hours. Total student contact hours: 5,755.
- **Evening programs**, monthly attendance 28 to 64. Topics: The State of Belfast Bay; Shellfish Aquaculture; Tree Identification; Seaweeds; Declining Insects; The Green School; Coyotes; discussion of film “Dam Nation.”
- Sponsored and organized **Penobscot Bay Stewards** volunteer training program in collaboration with Searsport Shores Ocean Campground. 20 trainees currently volunteering 30 hours per year for conservation. Planning took 100s of person-hours.
- **Fish Friends (former Salmon-in-Schools)** program in 12 schools. Continued purchase of one new set-up per year, provided educational support.
- **Salmon Release Day** curriculum activities, Fish Friends Program, multiple days.
- Conducted 9 **bird walks/paddles** for Bird Week in May.
- Organized and volunteers staffed all-day **Earth Day** for Drinkwater School, for the 11th year
- Led monthly **Belfast Harbor Bird Watch** from Footbridge.
- **Bird Walks/paddles**: Sears Island, Passagassawakeag River, Goose River, Ducktrap River Trail, Swanville Farm, In-Town Nature Trail, Head of Tide, Meadow Brook Preserve (2), Little River Trail. Woodcock Watch. Christmas Bird Count.
- Led Reentry Center residents on hike of Sears Island.
- Collaborated with Reentry Center and Boy Scout troop on Trail Crew.

Workshops and Naturalist Walks

- Ecology walk of Head of Tide
- Winter Trackin
- Fern Walk
- Led tree identification walk for Belfast Garden Club.

Exploratory outings

- **Monthly explorations** (10), attendance 4 to 20. Hiking, XC ski/snowshoeing, kayaking, canoeing, birding. Places: Belfast Rail Trail, Meadow Brook/Hurds Pond Preserve in Swanville, Head of Tide Preserve, Newman Preserve, Hills to Sea Trail, Mt. Waldo, Sears Island, Little River Trail, In-Town Nature Trail, and XC skiing/potluck social on a farm in Swanville. Paddle trips on Goose River, Passagassawakeag River, Belfast Bay.

Trail work

- Continued rerouting, maintaining, mapping, and marking the **Hills to Sea Trail**, a long-distance hiking trail through Waldo County. Led public hikes on it.
- **Bog bridge construction** and maintenance of Little River Community Trail.
- **Trail work and bog bridges** on Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserves we enjoy using: Head-of-Tide, Stover, Meadow Brook, McLellan-Poor, St. Clair (Knights Pond), Long Cove Headwaters, Mainstream Preserve. Many, many hours and people!

Community Projects

- Started organizing “Sustainable Belfast Bay Watershed Initiative”
- Participated in “**Keep Belfast Beautiful**” community clean-up day.

- **Collaborated** with Capt. Albert Stevens School, Troy Howard Middle School, Drinkwater School, East Belfast School, Appleton School, Lincolnville School, Midcoast Reentry Center, Habitat Belfast, Belfast Transition, Mid-Coast Audubon, Midcoast Conservancy, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Penobscot Marine Museum, Searsport Shores Campground, Waldo County Tech, Homeschoolers, Habitat Belfast, Waterfall Arts.
- Organized and staffed two Family Math Nights for elementary school families.
- Collaborated on leading **AR Girls**, a Maine Math Science Alliance initiative.
- Major planner and contributor to the 2020 **Penobscot Watershed Conference** in collaboration with: Penobscot Indian Nation, Maine Sea Grant, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Penobscot Marine Museum, Island Institute, Penobscot East Resource Center, Islesboro Islands Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Lower Penobscot Watershed Coalition.
- Participation in **Waldo County Trails Coalition**.
- **Community-building:** PenBay Stewards regular alumni get-togethers, annual January potluck social with outdoor fun.
- Initiated “Butts Be Gone” to stop cigarette filters from washing into the bay through storm drains.

Research

- Natural Resource Committee: ongoing **diadromous fish restoration efforts:** water quality training and monitoring, data loggers put into Belfast Bay, Wescot Stream, and Passagassawakeag River; local education about barriers to fish migration in the mid-coast.
- Joined and participated in Maine Coastal Observing Alliance.
- Joined and participated in Shell Day, sponsored by Northeast Coastal Acidification Network.
- Triennial professional **water quality monitoring** of Wescot Stream and Passagassawakeag River.
- Continued monitoring **storm surge sensors** in Stockton Springs, Searsport, Belfast (2), Northport, Lincolnville, Camden, and Islesboro harbors. Monthly reporting of continuous data collection.
- Continued weekly monitoring of water quality in Belfast Bay locations, submitted to Maine DEP.

Scholarships

- 20 youth admissions to Wild and Scenic Film Festival

Grants

- Natural Literacy grants from Ferguson Foundation, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Onion Foundation, BBWC, and individual donors.

Publications

- Newsletters (4) online; printed copies for outreach.
- *Belfast In-Town Nature Trail* map and guide brochure.
- *Belfast’s Important Birding Locations*, map and seasonal guide by Seth Benz.
- *Plants of the Little River Community Trail*, color brochure by Don Phillips.
- *Little River Community Trail List of Bird Species and Abundances*, brochure by Ron Harrell.
- Website maintained by Stacia Hoover: www.BelfastBayWatershed.org

BBWC 2019 Board of Directors:

President:	Ernie Cooper	Bill Armstrong	David Bond	Cloe Chunn
Vice President:	Karin Wittmann	Pat Gladding	Barney Lutsk	Tom King
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