

## Read with the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition Book Groups!

Here at Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (BBWC), we think that winter is a great time to read! We've chosen three books with elements of fiction, memoir, history, politics, class, ecology, economy. . . something for everyone. But these books are more than just entertainment. Each book and following discussion will prompt us to reflect on what it means to be a good steward of our watershed. How do history, economics, and culture affect the choices that humans make about the natural world?

January 19, 2023 *The Weir* by Ruth Moore. Moore is an important American realist writer who was born and raised on Gott's Island. After a number of years working away, she returned to live in Bass Harbor with her partner, Eleanor Mayo. From a fishing family, Moore was a fierce advocate for the natural world. In *The Weir*, she writes about the collapse of the Maine fisheries and the effect on a small island community. *The Weir* is a gripping tale of human cruelty and greed, but Moore balances that darkness with several comic characters and her stubborn hope for positive community values. Facilitated by Jennifer Craig.

February 16, 2023 *The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier* by Colin Woodard. The author describes this book as *a little understood saga of war and betrayal, of clashing empires and ethnic cleansing, of an intra-English civil war and a 170 year colonial occupation of the province that we now know as Maine. These events explain some of Mainers' most impressive virtues and most frustrating faults, as well as the still fraught relationship between this land's real natives and the rest of us whose families came "from away" at some point in the past four hundred years.* Facilitated by Kathleen Reilly.

March 23, 2023 *Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains* by Kerri Arsenault. *Mill Town* is a book of narrative nonfiction, investigative memoir, and cultural criticism that illuminates the rise and collapse of the working-class, the hazards of loving and leaving home, and the ambiguous nature of toxics and disease. Kerri Arsenault grew up in Mexico, Maine, where for over 100 years the community orbited around a paper mill that provided jobs for nearly everyone in town, including three generations of her family. This book has won several awards, most notably the 2021 Rachel Carson Environmental Book Award. Facilitated by Kate Hanson.

Belfast Free Library will help you borrow copies of these books. In addition, Left Bank Books has offered a generous 15% discount to readers in the BBWC Book Group. The bookstore will have a few copies in stock, but plan ahead! And if you special order one of these titles, please mention that you are reading with the BBWC Book Group, and you'll receive the discount. We appreciate the support of the library and of Left Bank Books!

The discussion groups will be at the Belfast Free Library from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. In case of severe weather, please check the BBWC Facebook page for cancellations.

We look forward to reading with you!

