



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS



Farewell to Skip and Jo Pendleton

BBWC lost two of our founders and longtime leaders this fall. Skip and Jo helped start the Passy Coalition, which morphed into the BBWC in 2004, with Skip as our first President. Through his far-sighted leadership and Jo's attention to outings, hospitality, and community outreach, BBWC has accomplished many goals with trail making, local education, public participation in conservation efforts, storm drain effluent, preserves, Penobscot Bay Stewards, nature inventories, scholarships, citizen science, and collaborations with many other organizations.

Their creativity, wisdom, and local knowledge have connected many groups and individuals who otherwise may have never found common ground. Our greater Belfast community, Waldo County, and beyond will benefit from their lives forevermore. One tangible proof is the hundreds of miles of trails that Skip played a huge part in creating and maintaining. It will certainly take a village, many villages, to fill their shoes.

To read more, please visit our website.

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.

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

January 18, Thursday. **Meet the Feet: Mammal Tracks and Sign.**

Dorcas Miller, tracker and founder of the Maine Master Naturalist Program, will give a hands-on workshop of skulls, scat, other signs, and life-sized trail patterns of Maine mammals. To be followed by a tracking morning at Stover Preserve on Saturday, Feb. 3.

February 15, Thursday. **Northern Forest Canoe Trail, First Hand.**

Nicole Grohoski, the first female through-paddler of the 740-mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail, will talk about her big adventure. She will share a short film about her trip as well as photos and stories celebrating 10 years along the trail since that epic paddle.

This paddling resource, 347 miles of which cross some of the most spectacular waters of Maine, is the longest paddling trail in the nation, running from Old Forge, New York through Vermont, Québec, and New Hampshire to Fort Kent, Maine following ancient Native American travel routes.

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.

Penobscot Bay Stewards Program May 2018

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition in partnership with Searsport Shores Ocean Campground is offering the Penobscot Bay Stewards Program to Penobscot area residents.

This is a unique opportunity to learn about the Penobscot Bay region and ways to conserve its resources.

The program will run all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 24 through May 24. Topics to be covered include Penobscot Bay history, marine life, island ecology, coastal land, intertidal and marine habitats, geology, the Penobscot Nation, fisheries, aquaculture, water quality, conservation issues, and current regional issues with impacts on our environment and human life. Leading authorities in their fields will give presentations and lead field trips.

Classroom presentations, short hikes in nature preserves and state parks, and field trips to Rockland, Hurricane Island, Indian Island, Blue Hill / Stonington, Searsport, and the Belfast area. Some days will require early morning departures and boat trips. Participants should be prepared to car pool and bring a bag lunch.

Although the course is free of charge, participants commit to volunteering thirty hours with local conservation efforts of their choice during the following year. Here on the Maine coast, there are many exciting volunteer opportunities available to choose from! Classes will provide an ample selection of possible projects. The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (www.belfastbaywatershed.org) qualifies as a conservation organization.

The course is limited to 20 enthusiastic participants who will participate in the entire program.

If you would like more information,
email stewards@belfastbaywatershed.org
or call Edie at 207-338-0048 or Ernie at 207-505-1767
The application deadline is April 1.

Outings

FMI: 338-1147.

Dec. 9, Sat. 8:00-10:00 am. **Harbor Bird Watch** from the Belfast Footbridge with Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian.

Dec. 16, Sat. 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.

Jan. 13, Sat. 10:00-1:00 **Snow Outing/Potluck Social** at Cloe and David's Farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. Bring skis, snowshoes, ice skates, or boots according to conditions. Short and long excursions. Or just come for potluck at noon!

Jan. 23, Tues. 8:00-10:00 am. **Harbor Bird Watch** from the Belfast Footbridge.

Feb. 3, Sat. 10:00-12:00 **Tracking at Stover Preserve**, Doak Road, Belfast with Dorcas Miller, tracker. (CMLT preserve) Bring water, warm layers, no pets please.

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

March 10, Sat. 10:00-12:00. **The Nature of the Belfast Rail Trail**. 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.

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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.*