



Belfast Bay  
Watershed

# BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

## Natural Literacy Program gets a boost from Jenni

The BBWC Natural Literacy Program, which offers a nature study/literacy combo for area schools K-12, started the school year with a burst of energy and expertise from our new Natural Literacy Educator, Jenni Judkins. Jenni is an articulate and attentive communicator with students of all ages, volunteers, and teachers. In her first 6 weeks BBWC served 5 schools in Searsport and Belfast districts, including Waldo County Tech. Programs addressed nature journaling, apple picking and creating, geology, “being” squirrels and bats, pond study, deciduous tree ecology and identification, and birds. Programs are in response to teacher requests, aligned to standards.

**In the first 6 weeks, the Natural Literacy program has served 298 students for 877 student-contact hours, with help from eight community volunteers.**



Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

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

# Programs

Our evening programs are in the Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library. They are free and open to the community.

**Thursday, December 13.** 6:30. "Books with Bev." Join Beverly Roxby for a discussion of *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World*. Author Jeff Goodell traveled across twelve countries, reporting on what he says is "one of the central facts of our time, as real as gravity." Stories from around the world focus on the 145,000,000 people living three feet or less above the current sea level, who might eventually make today's Syrian refugee crisis look like a high school drama production. The book is available at the library, at local bookstores, and on Kindle.



## Birds from the Belfast Footbridge

Ron Harrell and Gary Gulezian will again set up spotting scopes and be on the Footbridge from 8:00-10:00 am each month on the following low tide days:

**Thurs., Dec. 13**      **Tues. Feb. 12**  
**Sat., January 12**    **Tues. March 12**

**Thursday, January 17.** 6:30. Social Gathering, Watershed News Round-up, Volunteer Appreciation, and Annual Meeting. Come all, meet, greet, and eat, elect board members, and learn what you and others have been doing in the past year. Guaranteed to chase away the Winter Blahs.

**Thursday, Feb. 21.** 6:30. Film and discussion of "Dam Nation."

**Thursday, March 21.** 6:30. "The State of Penobscot Bay and Belfast Bay." Variety of presenters.



## Solstice Celebration at Head of Tide Preserve

85 Doak Road, Belfast  
Friday, December 21 at 3:00  
Hot cider and cookies  
Solstice tree decorating for the animals  
You are invited to bring something to read or sing



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## New Bog Bridges for Belfast's Little River Community Trail

A grant from the Maine Community Foundation has enabled the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (BBWC) to purchase enough cedar planks to replace most of the 180 aging and breaking bog bridges along the 5-mile trail through Belfast.

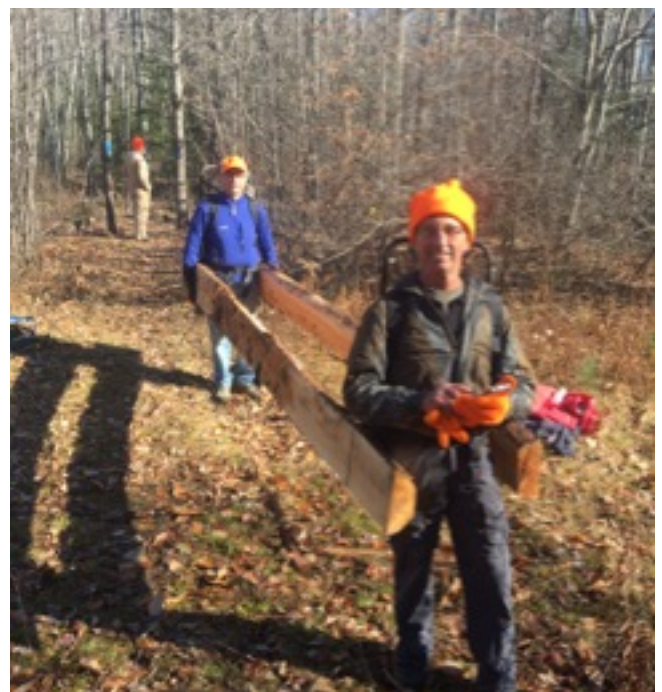
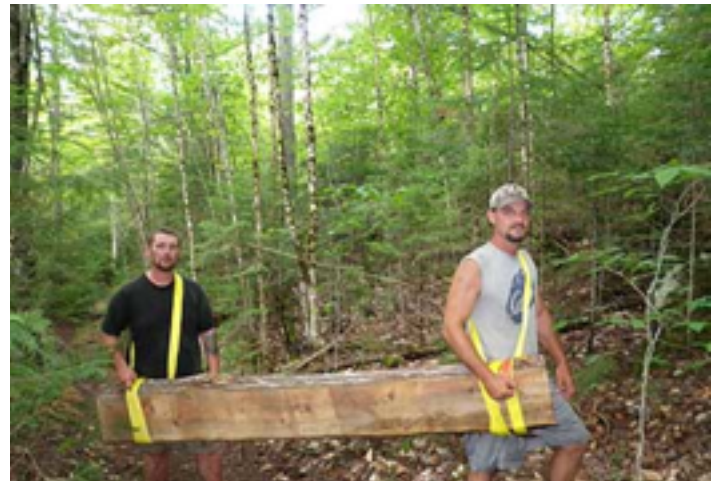
A team of volunteers from the Waldo County Reentry Center has been busy helping BBWC's Trail Crew carry the planks into place all along the trail, which runs from the Belfast Water District on Rt. 1 to the University of Maine Hutchinson Center.

Started at the turn of the current century, the first mile of trail went from the Water District to the Perkins Road. In 2005, a Project Canopy grant from the Maine Forest Service allowed BBWC to extend the trail to the Walsh Ball Fields on Rt. 52. Students from Troy Howard Middle School helped with the project. The final stretch to the Hutchinson Center was built with BBWC funds. The trail has been continuously maintained by the Belfast Bay Watershed Trail Crew, founded by Skip Pendleton and currently headed up by David Bond and Bill Armstrong.

Our community enjoys the trail due to the generosity of private landowners, the City of Belfast, Waldo County, and the Belfast Water District. The new bridges will continue its enjoyment.

Our gratitude goes to the landowners, the Reentry Center Team, BBWC Trail Crew, the Maine Community Foundation, and to all you who donated your frame backpacks!

*Photos by Gene Randall*



# Outings

FMI: 338-1147

**December 8,** Sat. Hike Newman Preserve (CMLT) in Northport down to Pitcher Pond for bag lunch and return. Meet at 10:00 at Beech Hill Road parking lot, 1 mile off Rt. 52 on left. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, appropriate footwear.

**January 12,** 2019, Sat. Outdoor Fun, potluck, and social at the farm of Cloe and David, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. Bring ice skates, snowshoes, skis. Choice of activities, 10:00-12:00. Or just arrive at noon for potluck. 338-1147 for directions.

**February 9,** Sat. Ski/snowshoe Meadow Brook Preserve (CMLT) in Swanville from Rt. 141 to Oak Hill Road. Meet at 10:00 at the Swanville Transfer Station on Swan Lake Ave. (Rt. 141). Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

**March 9,** Sat. Ski/snowshoe McLellan Poor Preserve (CMLT). Meet at 10:00 at the parking lot between the Belfast Water District and Little River Veterinary Hospital on Northport Ave., Rt. 1. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

**April 13,** Sat. Ski, snowshoe, hike the Belfast Rail Trail 2 miles into town for lunch. Meet at the Train Station on Oak Hill Road at 10:00, walk/ski into Belfast, lunch at the Nautilus. Options: walk back to the train station or park your car in town. All welcome just to join us at 11:30 for lunch.

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BBWC wishes to **THANK** all our **individual members** whose support makes our work happen! And thank you, **Business Members!**

Northport Yacht Club    Belfast Garden Club

Belfast Community TV    Coyote Moon

Wilderness & Conservation Fund

Let Them Eat Cake    Three Tides

Resources for Organizing & Social Change

Waldo County Soil and Water

Downeast Outing Club    Consumers Fuel

Belfast Veterinary Hospital    G.O. Logic

Little River Veterinary Hospital

Searsport Shores Campground

Front Street Shipyard    Darby's Restaurant

# BBWC Board of Directors

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- Karin Wittmann, Vice President
- Debbie Murphy, Secretary
- Gene Randall, Treasurer
- David Bond
- Cloe Chunn
- Barney Lutsk
- Tom King
- Marianne Randall
- John Tipping

## Staff

- Jenni Judkins, Natural Literacy Educator
- Paul Eagle, Publicity and Website

# 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.*