



**Belfast Bay
Watershed**

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

A Busy Year for BBWC

Over 100 volunteers worked for the good of our watershed, its plant and animal life, including us two-leggeds. Synergy and cohesive spirit united in projects such as permaculture, nature walks, explorations on foot and on water, education, and trail work.

We finished the Hills to Sea Trail with bridges, kiosks, signs, and maps, while maintaining dozens of other local trails. Volunteers in local schools offered outdoor curriculum, Salmon-in-Schools in 10 schools, Envirothon training, an after-school nature club, water quality monitoring with middle and high school students, and Earth Days Waldo County programming. We gave a Data Literacy workshop to teachers. We awarded five camp scholarships for deserving youth to have outdoor experiences. We organized 3 book discussion groups, walks on geology, reading the landscape, mosses and lichens, insects, ferns, and many bird walks. Eighteen people trained as Penobscot Bay Stewards in May, and have been giving of their time and talent to the watershed. We have monitored birds, frogs, and invasive species. Thank you, Volunteers!!!



Mollie Noyes volunteer teaching

Trail Crew installs a kiosk on the Hills to Sea Trail



Rest stop on "Jennifer Hill" on the Hills to Sea Trail



Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Evening Program Series at the Belfast Library

Once per month, a free public educational program is offered, starting at 6:30 pm.

Thursday, Dec. 15 - “Mercury in the Penobscot: HoltraChem’s Toxic Legacy.” Dianne Kopec will present on sediment mercury concentrations in the Narramissic River, a tributary to the lower Penobscot River. Just how toxic and what to do about it will be discussed.

Thursday, Jan. 19 - “The Sedges of Maine.” Matt Arsenault, co-author of *Sedges of Maine*, will present the biology and ecology of sedges, their important role in many of our ecosystems, and the crucial importance of those ecosystems in environmental protection.

Thursday, Feb. 16 - “Regenerative Community through Nature Connection: a Hands-On Workshop.” Join Trevanna and Trevanion Grenfell of Northwood Natural Learning for an evening of community-building: Make natural milkweed cordage, share hopes and fears, and experience the unique mentoring model that Northwood weaves through its programs to help inspire and deepen people of all ages’ relationships with our community and the wild.

Thursday, March 16 - “Bogs and Fens: New England’s Most Pristine Ecosystems.” Dr. Ron Davis, founder of the Orono Bog. In New England, at least 25 bogs and fens can be visited on boardwalks to see carnivorous plants, orchids, and uncommon bird species. Davis, author of a new book on these peatlands, will explain some of the unique features of these beautiful and fascinating ecosystems, illustrated with his outstanding photos.

Thursday, April 20 - Ocean Acidification. Mick Devin, marine biologist, researcher, and Maine State Legislator, will speak about the growing effects of ocean acidification on Maine’s fishing industry. Devin has led the way in researching the culture and ecology of marine animals and plants and is working to use his research to develop new options for future fisheries’ needs.

Conservation Award

The BBWC Conservation Award, given every 4 to 6 years, has been awarded to the Troy Howard Middle School Garden Project for

- outstanding innovative leadership
- interdisciplinary learning
- connecting school, community, and conservation.

In appreciation for many years of stewardship.



THMS students with 43 blue ribbons at the Common Ground Country Fair



*Cathy Morgan
on her beloved Hurds Pond*

Remembering Cathy Morgan

Long-time BBWC board member **Cathy Morgan** passed away on October 15, leaving a big hole in our hearts and minds. A lover of the outdoors and its creatures, great and small, Cathy personified conservation and nature study. She was a founder of Belfast Bay Bird Day and its organizer for several years. Cathy went on outings with joy and excitement well into the last year of her life, was a frog monitor, bird lover, and world pilgrim to see wild animals.

Close to home, Cathy loved the birds in her yard and the bay, and enjoyed paddling, hiking, and fishing. Her legal background placed her in a unique position on the board, with sage advice and good guidance. Cathy was quick to think of something funny to say to lighten up situations. Her gentle sense of humor was grease and glue. Cathy was active in preserving the Hurds Pond natural area in Swanville, an ongoing project. We humans are blessed to have the wild area to enjoy. It was clear, however, that Cathy's first primary concern was for the marsh wrens, frogs, and pied-billed grebes.

New Board Members

David Bond and his wife Judy came to Belfast 2 ½ years ago and wish they had come sooner. After a career in newspapers for 20 years, followed by real estate appraisal for 30 years in Massachusetts, Dave discovered he had great grandparents from Belfast, Stockton Springs, and Prospect, and says "I feel we belong here."

Dave joined the Pen Bay Stewards in May 2015, which led to trail work with Skip Pendleton and meeting people who enjoy the woods and water. Dave also monitors clam flats in Searsport and is on the Belfast Planning Board. He is currently working with Waldo County Tech students in the Outdoor Leadership Program building bog bridges on the Hills to Sea Trail.



Barbara Plummer is involved in the Pen Bay Stewards program, a life-changer for her. She heads up BBWC's membership and outreach committee. Her favorite activities are hiking, XC skiing, and snow shoeing with friends, along with rug hooking, contra dancing, and playing Mah Jongg.

"BBWC is a key component of what makes Belfast the vibrant, environmentally conscious community that we love and I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve on this board."

Outings

Outings are open to anyone interested. For more information or in questionable weather, call 338-1147.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:00-1:00. Hike the trail at Long Cove Headwaters Preserve in Searsport (Coastal Mountains Land Trust). Meet at 10:00 at Toziers Store in Searsport to carpool. Bring water, lunch, warm layers. Snowshoes or skis if snow.

Saturday, January 14, 10:00-1:00. Snow outing and potluck with Cloe Chunn and David Thanhauser at their farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. Come at 10:00 for XC skiing and snowshoeing. Or just come for potluck social at noon.

Saturday, February 11, 10:00-2:00. Snowshoe/ski the Hawk Fry to Bessey Preserve, Swanville, (Coastal Mountains Land Trust). Meet at the Swanville Transfer Station on Rt. 141 at 10:00 am. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

Saturday, March 11, 9:00-1:00. Snowshoe the Ridge to River Trail, Georges River Land Trust. Meet at 9:00 on Ghent Road, off Rt. 131, at bridge over the St. George River in Searsmont. Bring water, lunch, warm layers. 5 miles, some steep.

Saturday, April 15, 10:00-12:00 Geology of the Belfast Rail Trail; Amber Whittaker, Maine Geological Survey. Meet at 10:00 in the parking lot on outer High Street, 1/2 mile out from Rt. 1. Bring warm layers, rain gear, water, snack.

Tuesday, April 18, Survival Skills with Jason Chandler and Caitlin Thurrell, 10:00-1:00. Meet at the Thanhauser farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville at 10:00 am. Bring water, lunch, sharp knife, backpack. All ages.

Saturday, April 22, 9:00-12:00. Earth Day hike on Hills to Sea Trail. Meet at the Oak Hill Road train station outside of Belfast. Bring water, rain gear, lunch or snack. 4.5 miles.

BBWC Board of Directors

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Cloe Chunn, Secretary
Barney Lutsk, Treasurer
David Bond
Skip Pendleton
Barbara Plummer
Beverly Roxby
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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 cloechunn@gmail.com

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.