



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Winter Break Day Camp

On February 18-22, BBWC launched our first Day Camp over winter school break. Jenni Judkins, our Natural Literacy Educator, and a host of volunteers created a camp experience for area 3-4-5 graders, located at a different Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserve each day of the week. Songs, games, and enacting the life of the “Animal of the Day” kept each day lively and campers warm as they had fun learning what Earth has to teach them.



Left: Busy Beavers at Meadow Brook Preserve, Swanville

Below: Coyote Families at Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast



Left:
Last day, Humans enjoying Winter at St. Clair Preserve, Knights Pond, Northport
Gene Randall

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Programs

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

Thursday, March 21, 6:30. "The State of North Penobscot Bay and Belfast Bay"
John Tipping and others will present on different aspects of Belfast and North Penobscot Bays, including biology, water quality, storm surge, temperature, salinity, acidification, and effects of climate change.

Thursday, April 18, 6:30.
"Journeying to the Coyote Center"
Carnivore Biologist Geri Vistein shares an inspiring and informative film she produced about our future Coyote Center here in Maine, as well as her creative work with art, music, and farming. A discussion will follow.

Thursday, May 16, 6:30. "If the insects disappear, what is going on?"
In Maine and the rest of the world, is the decline of insects really happening? Should we be worried? What is the cause? What can we do about it? Dr. Frank Drummond, UMaine professor of insect ecology, will give us the latest research and what can be done for declining insects on whom we depend.

Penobscot Bay Stewards is accepting applications until April 1.

Meet new friends and learn together about the natural, cultural, and economic history and issues of the Penobscot watershed and bay.

BBWC offers the course free of charge on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 23-May 23. For more details and to download an application, go to BelfastBayWatershed.org and click on Pen Bay Stewards.

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:



The last two chances to watch from the Footbridge until Fall are:

Tuesday, March 12
Tuesday, April 9

Save the dates for Cathy Morgan Bird Week May 11-18

Early Bird Walks daily at 7:00.
Evening Woodcock Party.
Bird the Goose River by canoe.
See our website for details,
BelfastBayWatershed.org

Christmas Bird Count Team

On December 29, the BBWC Team again participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count for the Belfast area. Several sub-groups totaling 29 volunteers divided up the territory, a 14-mile diameter circle from Belfast Bay to Stockton, Frankfort, Monroe, and Waldo. The center of the circle is Mt. Waldo. Watchers combed their sections all day tallying birds by species. For once, the weather was mild and partly sunny, and participants felt happy to be out all day.

At day's end, we gathered for a potluck and to share results and stories from the day. The count added up to 61 species seen, totaling 4962 individual birds, 1189 of which were herring gulls. A detailed list is posted on belfastbaywatershed.org

Some less common sightings on land included a northern shrike, northern mockingbird, Carolina wren, 2 northern flickers, 2 Coopers hawks, and 23 evening grosbeaks. On the bay, a peregrine falcon, a kingfisher, 2 wood ducks, 2 great black-backed gulls, 2 black guillemots, 5 razorbills, and 6 red-throated loons. Partridges were seen, but not in a pear tree!

The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 aiming to reverse the trend of going out on Christmas Day and shooting birds. It indeed caught on, never missing a year of the 20th century and still continuing, now happening all over the world. Maine has 29 count circles with individual counts scheduled on different days, between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5, to allow participation in more than one count.

To join the team, contact Seth Benz at sbenz@shoodicinstitute.org Photos were taken by Betsy Headley, one of the Team.



Special year for Evening grosbeaks



Red-tailed hawk in flight



Northern shrike

Outings

FMI: 338-1147

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. 10:00-2:00. Ski/walk/snowshoe the Belfast Rail Trail to town for lunch. Meet at the Train Station on Oak Hill Road at 10:00, and trek to the Nautilus for lunch. Options: return on foot after lunch to the Train Station, or pre-park your car in town. Anyone is invited to join us for lunch at 11:30, whether you hike or not.

May 11-18. Cathy Morgan Bird Week.

See website for details.

May 18, Sat. 9:00-1:00. Paddle and bird the Goose River in Swanville with Sandra Mitchell and Cloe Chunn. Meet at the boat launch behind Swan Lake Grocery. Bring canoe or kayak, paddle, PFD, water, lunch, protection from sun, rain, bugs.

June 15, Sat. 5:00-8:00 pm. Near-Full Moon paddle from Belfast Boathouse to Youngs Lobster Pound for dinner. See website for details.

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 Ocean Campground
- Front Street Shipyard Darby's Restaurant

BBWC Board of Directors

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- John Tipping

Staff

- Jenni Judkins, Natural Literacy Educator
- Stacia Hoover, Publicity and Website

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.