



Belfast Bay Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

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March 2013

Salmon Eggs for a New Season

On February 27, Searsport and Drinkwater elementary schools and Troy Howard Middle School each received 200 Atlantic salmon eggs to watch over and incubate in the classrooms of Allison Woods, Anna Wood-Cox, and Linda Davis. Students will observe the development into baby salmon (fry).

Tasks for the students involve cleaning any dead eggs or debris from the tank, and keeping an eye on the chiller's temperature. The chiller holding the eggs must remain at 35 degrees to maintain enough dissolved oxygen.

In April the temperature will be raised gradually to 51 degrees by April 30, for proper development of the fry. This temperature regime will also allow the fry to be ready to feed when released. At release time, Wescot Stream should have plenty of food available for the salmon fry.

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition purchased the Drinkwater chiller to maintain proper temperatures, and Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery has provided the salmon eggs. Teachers have borrowed and personally helped their schools purchase the rest of the equipment in order to offer this special learning opportunity. Now a total of five participating schools are all releasing to Belfast Bay Watershed. The schools are: Troy Howard Middle School, and Drinkwater, Camden-Rockport, Searsport, and Lincolnville Elementary Schools.

Through a lengthy permitting process, BBWC secured permission to release salmon fry into the watershed a year ago, when two schools participated. Expanding the number of schools increases the odds of salmon fry growing to maturity and migrating back into the watershed to lay eggs. Atlantic salmon will have a better chance of surviving if other fish are also restored and repopulated, such as alewives, herring, sturgeon, shad, and brook trout. BBWC is working on several strategies for restoration of diverse species. The more the ecological system can be restored to natural, the more these dwindling or lost species will survive and repopulate.



Anna Wood-Cox's fifth graders at Drinkwater take charge of salmon eggs from Tom King of BBWC. Debbie Mitchell photo

Check our website at www.belfastbaywatershed.org
We will post programs, activities, and cancellation notices.

An archive of newsletters and photos is also on the website.

Weekly Walkers

Twice per month, on a Tuesday or a Wednesday, a hike will be offered to anyone who'd like to hike 2 to 4 miles in a congenial group. A different leader will be in charge of each hike. Call this leader for details and to sign up to go. Leaders have different ideas about time of day, so be sure to check. We are trying to accommodate people's schedules by offering a Tuesday and a Wednesday each month.

March, April, and May Walks

Tuesday, March 5. Hike up Mt. Percival in Northport, followed by a walk on the Shore Road, with Cloe Chunn, 338-1147. Meet at 9:00 am at Dos Amigos Restaurant on Rt. 1 in Northport.

Wednesday, March 20. Hike Moose Point State Park with Gerry Locke, 948-2132. Meet at 9:15 am at Walsh Ball Field on Rt. 52, or at 9:30 at Moose Point State Park on Rt. 1 two miles west of Searsport.

Tuesday, April 2. Ski, snowshoe, or hike Tanglewood trails with Linda Hurley and Susan Higgins. Meet at Tanglewood 4-H camp in Lincolnville at 10:00. FMI/directions call 930-3635.

Wednesday, April 17. Hike Maiden Cliff Trail in Camden with Janet Williams, 548-2941. Meet at 9:00 am at Walsh Ball Field to carpool.

Tuesday, May 7. Climb Blue Hill with Mayme Trumble, 603-953-4028. Meet at 9:00 am at Walsh Ball Field on Rt. 52 to carpool, or at 10:00 am at the trailhead.

Wednesday, May 22. Hike Youngs Neck and Fernalds Neck in Camden with Helen Burlingame, 338-2981. Meet at 9:00 am at Walsh Ball Field on Rt. 52 in Belfast, or at 9:30 at Fernalds Neck parking lot in Camden. No dogs are allowed there, not even on leash.

Volunteer hike leaders wanted! If you would like to lead a group of friendly folks on a hike, please contact Janet Williams, 548-2941.

Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

Each month the BBWC offers a free public educational program on some aspect of the natural community to which we belong. Programs are on Thursdays, and begin at 6:30 pm in the Abbott Room. Light refreshments are served.

March 21. 6:30 pm. "How Nature Supports Humans." Anna Fiedler, Executive Director, Sheepscot Well-spring Land Alliance. Ecosystems provide humans with services that are twice as valuable as the goods and services we pay for in the global economy. These services support our quality of life in Midcoast Maine.

April 18. 6:30 pm. "Coming to Maine.... by Canoe." Sarah Mattox and Aaron Bauman will show pictures and chronicle their lengthy journey on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the route they took when they moved from Minnesota to Belfast.

May 16. 6:30 pm. "The Maine Master Naturalist Program: Results of the Belfast Class." Come learn about some of the Capstone Projects completed by participants in the MMNP as it took place this year in Belfast under the direction of Cloe Chunn.

Sept. 19. 6:30 pm. "Maximizing Conservation with Economic Development." Thomas Kittredge, director of Belfast's Office of Economic Development, will speak and answer questions about keeping the nature and the economy of Belfast vibrant together.

Colin Woodard to Speak on April 9

“Rebuilding the Seas: how the world's oceans were laid low and what to do about it”



On Tuesday, April 9, at 4:00 pm, Maine’s own renowned journalist and author Colin Woodard will speak at the Hutchinson Center on Rt. 3 in Belfast.

Woodard is State & National Affairs Writer at the *Portland Press Herald* and *Maine Sunday Telegram*, where he recently won a 2012 George Polk Award for his investigative reporting. He is a longtime foreign correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

A native of Maine, Woodard has reported from more than fifty foreign countries and six continents, and lived for more than four years in Eastern Europe. He is the author of *American Nations: A History of The Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* (Viking Press, 2011), *The Republic of Pirates: Being The True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down* (Harcourt, 2007), the New England bestseller *The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier* (Viking Press, 2004), a cultural and environmental history of coastal Maine, and *Ocean's End: Travels Through Endangered Seas* (Basic Books, 2000), a narrative non-fiction account of the deterioration of the world's oceans.

BBWC has collaborated with Senior College and the University of Maine Hutchinson Center to make this event free and open to the public. Arrive early to get a good seat.

Bird Week is May 11-17. Save the dates!

(338-1147 for more info on any of these)

Saturday, May 11, 7:00 am. Bird Walk on Sears Island with Cloe Chunn.

Monday, May 13, 7:00 am. Bird Walk at Cloe and David’s farm, Swanville.

Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 am. Bird Walk with Ron Harrell at Belfast Footbridge.

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 am. Bird Walk with Kristen Lindquist and Cloe Chunn at the Ducktrap River Preserve (Coastal Mountains Land Trust) on Rt. 52 in Lincolnville.

Thursday, May 16, 7:00 am. Bird Walk with Ron Harrell. Meet at Walsh Ball Field on Rt. 52, diagonally across from the YMCA.

Friday, May 17, 7:00 PM, Woodcock Watch with Mike Shannon at the YMCA lower parking lot.

Sun and Moon in Spring

March 20	Spring Equinox
March 27	Full Moon
April 25	Full Moon
May 24	Full Moon

BBWC Board of Directors

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Coffee Cans Needed

The Maine Master Naturalist Program needs metal one-pound coffee cans with lids. If you have any, please bring them to a program, a walk, or call 338-1147 to donate your cans.

Penobscot Bay Stewards Program

May 2013

Would you like to learn more about the Penobscot Bay region and help preserve its unique character and history? The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition is again collaborating with the Maine Coastal Program to offer the Penobscot Bay Stewards Program to area residents. This is a unique opportunity to learn about the Penobscot Bay region and ways to conserve its resources.

The program will run morning through afternoon on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 30 through May 30 (no class May 2). 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.

The program will include classroom presentations, short hikes in nature preserves and state parks, and field trips to Rockland, Blue Hill and Deer Isle, Damariscotta, Indian Island, the Belfast area and elsewhere. Some days will require early morning departures and boat trips. Participants should be prepared to car pool and bring a bag lunch.

The course is free, but participants are expected to volunteer 30 hours to local conservation efforts of their choice during the coming year. Classes will provide an ample selection of possible projects. The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition qualifies as such a conservation organization.

Why should you join the Stewards? As you learn more about Penobscot Bay, the Mid-Coast, and local watersheds, you'll realize how very important and fragile they are. With this knowledge, you can be part of efforts to preserve and protect this valuable resource.

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

If you would like more information, contact Maynard at 338-8666 or Karin at 322-5545 or kwttmnn@gmail.com.

The application is on the next page.

The application deadline is **April 1**.

Mail applications to: Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition
P.O. Box 152
Belfast, ME 04915

2013 Field Trip Calendar

Anyone is welcome on outings. We offer an easy alternative to the more challenging trips. For more information, or in questionable weather, call 338-1147 for details.

March 9, Saturday. 10:00 am. Hike the newest section of the Little River Community Trail and explore North Forest Preserve. Meet at the Hutchinson Center parking lot, Rt. 3 in Belfast at 10:00 am. Bring water, lunch, rain gear. Wear boots, skis, or snowshoes, depending on conditions.

April 13, Saturday. 10:00 am. Paddle the Goose River, choice of 4 miles or 7 miles. Meet at Swan Lake dam in Swanville, behind Swan Lake Grocery on ME 141. Bring kayak or canoe, paddle, PFD, water, lunch, sun, rain, and wind protection. If you need (or have extra) space in a canoe, call 338-1147.

May 11, Saturday. NOTE CHANGE: 7:00 am. Migratory Bird Walk at Sears Island with Cloe Chunn and others. Meet at the outer end of the causeway in Searsport. Bring binoculars, water, snack.

Bird Week, May 11-17. See page 3 for details.

June 15, Saturday. 1:00 pm. Paddle the tidal Passagassawakeag from the Belfast Boathouse to Head of Tide, and back. Meet at the Boathouse at 1:00 pm to paddle the rising tide. We'll have "High Tea at High Tide," and then paddle the falling tide back to the Boathouse by 5:00 pm. Bring kayak or canoe, paddle, PFD, water, lunch, sun, rain, and wind protection. If you need (or have extra) space in a canoe, call 338-1147.

Summer paddling. If you are interested in informal kayak or canoe paddles during the summer, contact Janet Williams, 548-2941, williajanet@gmail.com, with your suggestions or to join an outing.

September 21, Saturday. Celebrate the Equinox with a hike up Hogback Mountain in Montville. Meet at 9:30 at Renys parking lot to carpool, or at the SWLA Bog Brook Trailhead at 10:00. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, binoculars.

Schedule of Meetings/Events

Mar. 5, Tuesday Walkers, Mt. Percival, see p. 2
Mar. 9, 10:00 am. North Forest Preserve and LRCT, see left.
Mar. 20, Wednesday Walkers, TBA, call 930-3635.
Mar. 21, Thurs. 5:00 pm, Board meeting, Library
6:30 pm, Ecosystems Services to Humans, p. 2
Apr. 2, Tuesday Walkers, page 2.
Apr. 9, Tues. 4:00 pm. Colin Woodard speaks at the Hutchinson Center, see p. 3.
Apr. 13, 10:00 am. Paddle Goose River, see left.
Apr. 17, Wednesday Walkers, p. 2.
Apr. 18, 5:00 pm, Board meeting, Library
6:30 pm, Program at Library TBA
Apr. 30, Tues. Penobscot Bay Stewards course begins.
May 7, Tuesday Walkers, p. 2.
May 11-17. Bird Week! Save the week!
May 16, Thurs. 5:00 pm, Board meeting, Library
6:30 pm, Maine Master Naturalist Program, p. 2
May 22, Wednesday Walkers, p. 2.
May 30, Thur. Last day of Penobscot Bay Stewards.
June 15, Sat. 1:00 pm. Paddle the Passagassawakeag tidal section, see left.
Call Janet for summer paddling, see p. 2.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition invites you to help with our mission of exploring and enjoying our watershed, educating other people about our watershed, and raising community awareness of issues in the watershed.

Please feel free to attend a program and/or field trip and see what we are doing. To subscribe to BBWNews online: fbrown711@roadrunner.com

Contact information:

Cloe Chunn, 338-1147 Skip Pendleton 338-4427

Mission: The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition is a group of organizations and individuals working to support conservation and stewardship of natural, scenic, historic, and public access resources of the Belfast Bay Watershed through research, community-building, and education.

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