



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Watershed Education with BBWC

Two of the bigger education projects this year have been the Salmon-in-Schools program (see page 2) and Drinkwater Earth Day for elementary schoolers.

Children from Drinkwater School and East Belfast School each had their Earth Day activities in June. Rotations taught by BBWC volunteers included tide pool study, glaciomarine clay study and sculptures, tree identification, birding with binoculars, bird watercolor painting,



soil study, skulls and bones, and pond and brook study

Soil Study



Tide Pool Study

The campus of Drinkwater School in Northport fortunately encompasses all these varied environments and offers the perfect venue for field trips and outdoor study. Younger children learn from BBWC volunteers, Tanglewood teachers, and their own teachers. Middle and high school students do water chemistry analysis, marine biology, and other studies afforded by the rich environment. RSU 20 is very fortunate to have this valuable educational property for the use of all its schools. Many objectives in the Common Core and Next Gen standards can be achieved there by primary experience.

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Salmon in Schools

From February til May, children in 5 elementary schools and Troy Howard Middle School raised salmon from eggs to fry in classroom aquaria.

Each class released its carefully tended “babies” into Wescot Stream in Swanville at the Chunn/Thanhauser farm. BBWC volunteers helped them make a learning experience of it, as they sketched, took nature hikes, monitored water quality, and played salmon games. See photo at right.



BBWC has a commitment to buy equipment for schools to raise salmon, and pays for professional water quality monitoring on the Passagassawakeag River and Wescot Stream. In addition, volunteers do informal monitoring.

It is our hope that in four or five years, adult salmon will begin homing to their natal stream, the Wescot, to spawn.



Salmon Express



Kids in Wescot Stream

Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

Our educational programs are offered on Thursday evenings once per month in the Abbott Room. Programs are free and open to all. Light refreshments are served.

September 18, 6:30 pm. "The Ship in the Forest: our forest and sea connection in Maine." Bill Leavenworth of Searsmont, a multifaceted scholar, sailing vessel worker, and college professor, will present an environmental history of the Gulf of Maine from early settlement to the present.

October 16, 6:30 pm. "Ecological connections between land and sea - what they mean for our future." Dr. Denis Wang, PhD in marine behavioral ecology with a primary research focus on lobster behavior and population dynamics, will connect the dots for us.

November 20, 6:30 pm. "Building on Success - Achievements and Strategies for Conservation." Doug Sensenig, Exec. Director of Coastal Mountains Land Trust, will give us an update on the Land Trust's work in the Belfast area and ask for ideas people have for other work/collaborations.

December 11, 6:30 pm. "Hit the Trail!" with Cloe Chunn and Skip Pendleton, who will update us on new trails in our area, including the In-Town Nature Trail, Meadow Brook Preserve Trails, and Hills to Sea Trail, among others.

January 15, 2015, 6:30 pm. "A Permaculture Look at Head of Tide Preserve's Food Producing Past and Future." Karin Wittmann, organizer of the Head of Tide project.

February 19, 6:30 pm. "Bats: Aerial Acrobats of the Night." Ecology and importance of the nine local bat species. Katelin Craven, bat biologist .

Nature Journaling Workshop on November 13, 9:00-3:00

Poet and writer Kristen Lindquist and naturalist Cloe Chunn are teaming up to offer a one-day gathering to develop skills in nature drawing and writing. Indoor and outdoor time will be spent sketching and writing in beautiful surroundings at the Coastal Mountains Land Trust office in Camden. To learn more and to register, call 338-1147 or email cloechunn@gmail.com Limited to 12 participants.

BBWC and Friends of Sears Island Honored with Award

At the Maine Land Conservation Conference on April 25, Scott Dickerson was awarded the Espy Conservation Award by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. In his acceptance thanks, Scott stated, "The Espy Award is wonderful recognition of the land conservation accomplishments we achieve together...I'm dedicating \$2000 of the honorarium of the Espy Award to Friends of Sears Island in honor of Marietta Ramsdell, and \$2000 to the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition in honor of Cloe Chunn. Both organizations represent the roots of conservation, and Marietta and Cloe are exemplars of visionary and diligent leadership." Scott Dickerson is the former Executive Director of Coastal Mountains Land Trust.

In Memorium - Jim Wescott

Jim Wescott was a lot of things to a lot of people. As athletic director at Colby College, he was “Coach” to countless athletes for years. In his decade in Belfast, he was also a coach, when he mentored children at Captain Albert Stevens School. He was such a successful mentor that he was asked to teach the other mentors the art and skill of mentoring.

We knew him in BBWC as a kind, gentle, always optimistic, hearty, and hard working volunteer. When we made trails on the C.A.S.S. campus, he taught children how to hammer a nail and work a screw gun (photo right). His patience was endless.



Jim’s handiwork shows in the trails our Crew has built and maintained in the Belfast Bay watershed area. When I hike a trail, I’ll come to a stretch of transformed slash, or I’ll cross a bridge, and remember, “Jim laid this corduroy bridge,” or “Jim was here heaving hemlock trunks across the stream for this high bridge.” Tangible reminders like these will keep Jim ever alive for those of us who worked with him.

The community lost a great person when we lost Jim Wescott in May. But he has not passed away. His spirit shows vibrantly everywhere he has contributed. And we remember how committed he was to excellence and how fun he was to work with.



Jim is on the right, moving hemlock trunks to build a bridge spanning a brook on the Little River Community Trail.

Belfast In-Town Nature Trail is a Reality

Experience the nature of Belfast by walking tree-lined streets, parks, unusual birding spots and postage stamp habitats for wildlife, the cemetery, urban gardens, the Harbor Walk, and public access points to the beach.

There are many points of access to the trail. Segments can be enjoyed in and of themselves or threaded together to form a 5-mile loop. There are five convenient parking areas that provide easy access to the walking trail: City Park, The Boathouse, Wales Park, Kirby Lake (The Muck), and the Armistice Footbridge.

You may pick up a map/brochure at the Greenways EcoCenter next to Belfast Office Supply, or download it from our website. The trail is a collaborative effort of BBWC, Habitat Belfast, Friends of Belfast Parks, and Belfast Garden Club. The brochures were funded by OurTownBelfast.

Guided walks will be offered in the fall, or just download a map and start walking. Training for trail guides will also be offered (see below).

Guided Walks on the In-Town Nature Trail:

Fridays in September and October: Sept. 5,12,19,26. Oct. 3,10,17,24,31.

Meet at the Boathouse at 9:00 am to carpool to a segment.

FMI: 338-1147

The chickadee logo will be posted on small metal trail signs this fall to guide the way along the five-mile In-Town Nature Trail.—>



Be a Trail Guide on the In-Town Nature Trail!

No experience needed. We will show you the ropes and prepare you for taking others walking on segments of the trail. All you need is curiosity about nature and an enjoyment of walking with people. FMI: call 338-1147 or email cloechunn@gmail.com



Other Trail News

Skip Pendleton and the Trail Crew have been hard at work all summer maintaining trails and making new ones. Meadow Brook Preserve in Swanville now has two trails of roughly a mile each. Both parts of Meadow Brook Preserve are north of Hurds Pond on Oak Hill Road. Head of Tide Preserve in Belfast has a new trail addition. The Hills to Sea Trail is a work in progress at our end, but the western parts between Unity and Frye Mountain are coming together.

Visit www.waldotrails.org for maps and information.

Monthly Outings 2014-2015

Anyone is welcome on outings. For more information, or in questionable weather, call 338-1147 for details.

Sept. 13, Sat. 10:00-2:00. Hike a new section of the Hills to Sea Trail in Unity. Meet at the MOFGA Fairgrounds back entrance on Crosby Road off Rt 220/139. Bring water, lunch, rain and sun protection.

Sept. 25, Thurs. 1:00-3:00. On Sears Island: Fungi and their biology, with Dr. David Porter, mycobiologist.

Oct. 11, Sat., 10:00-1:00. Walk the In-Town Nature Trail. Meet at the Boathouse. Bring water, lunch, rain gear.

Oct. 19, Sunday, 10:00-12:00. Moss, Lichen, Liverwort Walk on Sears Island with naturalist Cloe Chunn.

Nov. 9, Sunday, 10:00-2:00. Hike Meadow Brook Preserve, Swanville, with Cloe Chunn. Two new trails. Meet at 399 Oak Hill Road. Bring water, lunch, rain gear. Cosponsored with Coastal Mountains Land Trust.

Dec. 13, Sat., 10:00-2:00. Hike new and old trails at Head of Tide Preserve, Doak Road, Belfast. Bring water, lunch, warm layers. Cosponsored with CMLT.

Jan. 10, Saturday, 10:00-2:00. Winter outing and potluck social at Cloe and David's farm, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. 10:00 snow shoeing and XC ski; or just come at noon for potluck.

Feb. 14, Sat. Snowshoe or XC ski the Gibson Preserve, Searsmont, with Skip Pendleton. The preserve is part of Georges River Land Trust.

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 5,12,19,26. Guided walks of In-Town Nature Trail. See page 5 for details.
- Sept. 13, Sat. Hike Hills to Sea Trail. See left.
- Sept. 18, Thurs. "The Ship in the Forest" program at library. See page 3.
- Sept. 25, Thurs. Fungi walk on Sears Island. See left.
- Oct. 3,10,17,24,31. Guided walks of In-Town Nature Trail. See page 5 for details.
- Oct. 11, Sat. Walk the In-Town Nature Trail. See left.
- Oct. 16, Thurs. Marine ecology program at the library. See page 3.
- Oct. 19, Sunday. Moss, Lichen walk on Sears Island. See left.
- Nov. 9, Sunday. Hike Meadow Brook Preserve, Swanville. See left.
- Nov. 13, Thurs. Journaling workshop, see p. 3.
- Nov. 20, Thurs. Conserving the Belfast Area program at library. See page 3.
- Dec. 11, Thurs. Program: Hit the Trail! see p. 3.
- Dec. 13, Sat. Hike Head of Tide Preserve, left.

You are invited to participate

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

Please feel free to attend a program or an outing and see what we are doing. To subscribe to the newsletter on-line, contact Francine Brown at fbrown711@roadrunner.com

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.