



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Not One but Two Earth Day Celebrations!



Earth Days Waldo County:

Concurrent with traditional Earth Day, April 22, we staged a week of programs and celebrations from April 16 to 26. Included were a potluck dinner, two programs on Climate Change, a program on De-Growth, a UU Church sermon, an Essay Contest, a night of music and poetry, a Green Fair, and a city wide parade with costumes and giant puppets. All events were heavily attended. We thank the City of Belfast for allowing us the use of the Boathouse and the city streets for the parade.

Drinkwater Earth Days: By local tradition, in June we staffed our annual Earth Days at Drinkwater School in Northport, one day devoted to all Drinkwater students, and another day devoted to 3,4,5-graders from East Belfast School. BBWC volunteers taught 8 learning stations for students to visit, including tide pooling, glaciomarine blue clay instruction and sculpture, stream quality monitoring, birding with binoculars, pond ecology and biology, bird watercolor painting, salmon life cycle and migration, and tree id.

Here are some reactions from students: I liked birdwatching because we got to see and hear real live birds! We found a whole lot of crabs under a rock and it was really fun. We actually picked them up in our cup and touched one! I also liked the critters in the pond because they were wild and free not all cooped up in a cage. I thought this whole experience was amazing! I'm thinking about starting a bird watching club. I found a crab shell, periwinkles, and a snail at the tidal pool. Now I know how a tidal pool forms and what lives in it. I liked making things with clay. I never saw a starfish in real life--there were like a billion yesterday! I got to see the bird I painted, a tufted titmouse. (continued on page 2 bottom.)



Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

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

September 17, 6:30 pm. Identifying and Understanding Invasive Species. Aleta McKeage, ecologist and invasive plant manager, will inform us about the ecological effects of invasive species in Maine, which pose the greatest threats, and how to identify and control them.

October 18, 6:30 pm. What's going on in Baxter State Park? Aaron Megquier, Executive Director of Friends of Baxter State Park, will tell us about conservation initiatives in the Park, including the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program, which cultivates young wilderness leaders. A graduate of the program will also speak.

November 19, 6:30 pm. Deep Ocean Corals. Dr. Rhian Waller, University of Maine researcher, will present on Deep Ocean Corals in Maine and elsewhere, their significance and ecology.

December 10, 6:30 pm. Looking for Sustainable Practices: Focus on Plastic. Karin Wittmann, Ph.D., will share photos and stories from her recent trip to Iceland with twelve U.S. college students, in which they investigate sustainable practices. We will then have a group discussion about ways we try to be sustainable at home, with a focus on use of plastic, and alternatives.

Remembering Maynard

Founding board member Maynard Clemons passed away on August 6. One of the original founders of the Passy Coalition, he continued to guide it as it became the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition. He took an avid interest in watershed conservation, and was instrumental in bringing the Penobscot Bay Stewards Program, one of his great loves, under BBWC leadership.

Maynard provided a sense of history and a solid, sane voice on the board. He was practical, often forceful, and kept his "eyes on the prize" of a more connected and vibrant watershed.

We are grateful that Maynard and his wife Joan served long and well as board members. Their lengthy term of commitment and service made the organization flourish.



*Remarks by students, continued from page 1:

We studied about how rocks came out of the earth from the earth's crust, and then we saw so many types of them. Talking about glaciers was cool! I was excited to paint a red-tail hawk. I didn't know salmon use their sense of smell to get home. I love different types of pond bugs. I have never seen a starfish that is as big as the one I saw yesterday. I screamed so loud when I saw the crab nest under the rock. I was so excited when I realized how good my painting was going to be! We got to hold a frog--I've never done that!

Head of Tide Permaculture Project

The Head of Tide Preserve Permaculture Project is a collaborative project to regenerate the agricultural potential of the Head of Tide Preserve by engaging the community in the hands-on practice of permaculture. The initial phase currently involves developing the .6-acre field immediately in front of you as a demonstration site for ecologically sound and resilient agricultural techniques. Throughout 2015, the project partners are actively engaged in hands-on study of the site, design of the project, and initial installation of permacultural practices. Partners include Belfast Transition, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, Belfast Garden Club, and Habitat Belfast, GreenWays EcoCenter.



Pictured above, a pig and two goats worked for a day, eating invasive plants and plowing up the soil for planting.

The left photo shows an apple tree guild, the grouping of plants in relationships that nourish and promote each other's growth and restore soil.

To volunteer, contact Denis Wang at drdeniswang@gmail.com

Head of Tide activities are listed on page 4.



Hills to Sea Trail now has 7 miles from Belfast to Rt. 137.

The first 2 miles out of town use the Passy Rail Trail. From there, the trail crosses Oak Hill Road at the railroad station and continues 5 miles to Rt. 137, Waterville Road. On the way it passes through mature woods, meadows, crosses some small brooks, crosses Rt. 7, and comes out at the Belfast Area Children's Center on 137 across the road from Waldo County Tech School. The Belfast trail crew (pictured at right) has worked hard all summer to get this far. To join us: skipen@gmail.com or 338-4427.



Outings

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

September 12, Sat, 10:00-2:00. Hike the Newman Preserve in Northport. Meet at 10:00 at the YMCA to carpool. Bring water, lunch, protection from rain and ticks. This is a CMLT preserve

October 10, Sat, 10:00-12:00. Mushroom walk at Newman Preserve, Northport, with Dr. David Porter, mycologist. Park on Beech Hill Rd., 3.7 mi. in from Rt. 1 (or 1.4 mi. in from Rt. 52). Sponsored by Coastal Mountains Land Trust.

October 17, Sat, 10:00-2:00. Hike the new Hills to Sea Trail (5 miles). Meet at 10:00 at the City Point Train Station on City Point Road (outer High St.), Belfast. Bring water, lunch, protection

November 15, SUNDAY, 10:00-2:00. Hike the McLellan-Poor Preserve. Meet at the trailhead on Rocky Road, Northport. Bring water, lunch, warm layers. This is a CMLT preserve.

December 12, Sat, 10:00-2:00. Hike the In-Town Nature Trail, 5 miles. Meet at City Park, upper parking lot. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

January 16, Sat, 10:00-2:00. Snow fun 10:00, potluck at noon, at the farm of Cloe and David, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville. Bring skis or snowshoes. Or just come at noon for potluck.

Head of Tide Calendar

For more information, call Joan Willey [443-223-5763](tel:443-223-5763) All events are at Head of Tide Preserve, Doak Road, Belfast, a Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserve.

September 5, Saturday, 10:00-12:00. Hike with 2 entomologists, Dana Michaud and David Borque of Maine Entomological Society. A Coastal Mountains Land Trust event.

September 12, Saturday 10:00, rain date 13th: Teen permablitz organized and run by awesome teens. All young and young-at-heart invited. Adults bring the potluck food!

October 3, Saturday 10:00, rain date 4th : Apple harvest & cider pressing party. Family Fall Festival. Garden Club fall outing. Sponsored by Friends of Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition.

also **October 3, Saturday** 10:00, rain date 4th Mushroom walk with Sasha Kutsy

You are invited to participate

BBWC invites you to help with our mission of exploring our watershed, educating others about it, and raising community awareness about issues in our watershed. Please join us!

To subscribe to the newsletter on-line, contact Debbie Mitchell at

dmitch2663@msn.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.