



**Belfast Bay
Watershed**

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS



Pictured is the Trail Crew. Mr. Wessels is inside the “Walking Tree”, a large, old white cedar with a hollow base.

Middle School Trails

Students at Troy Howard Middle School, with help from BBWC and the new Garden Project teacher, David Wessels, are building a trail in the far reaches of the THMS campus. RSU 71 is fortunate to own a large forested campus, and students are making it possible to hike and enjoy its habitat without disturbing wildlife.

The trail diverges from the Little River Trail after it crosses the brook, returning by a loop to the Little River Trail.

Hills to Sea Trail open

The Hills to Sea Trail is now open and marked from the train station at the end of the Passagassawakeag Rail Trail to Rt. 137, where it ends temporarily at the Belfast Area Children’s Center. Parking is available at the train station on Oak Hill Road and on the east side of the Rt. 7 road crossing.

When completed, the Hills to Sea Trail will stretch 40+ miles from Unity to Belfast Bay. The Trail Crew hopes to extend to Frye Mountain in 2016 to meet the Crew building from Unity to meet us.

Hearty thanks to ALL the landowners making it possible!

Healthy recreation linking people and communities, and immersion in a wild natural setting are what we are striving to give to users of the trail.

Pictured at right are hikers on the first public hike of the 5-mile completed trail in October. The trail is well marked with blue blazes and easy to follow.



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.

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. Karin is a BBWC board member.

January 21, 6:30 pm. "What the Insects are Telling Us about Water Quality: Using aquatic organisms to determine actual and potential water pollution." John Tipping is an environmental biologist with 20 years of experience using aquatic organisms to assess the health of aquatic habitats. He operates Lotic, Inc., in Belfast and works for private and municipal agencies. John is a BBWC board member.

February 18, 6:30 pm. "How does Marine Aquaculture fit in Maine's Working Waterfront?" Dr. Paul Anderson, director of Maine Sea Grant College Program and the Aquaculture Research Institute at the University of Maine.

March 17, 6:30 pm. "Investigating a Changing Arctic Ocean." In the fast-changing Arctic Ocean, is microbial life keeping up? What are the trends? Dr. Paty Matrai, Arctic researcher, Bigelow Lab of Ocean Sciences, will explore these questions with field, remote sensing and model data, and share the beautiful setting of these cold waters.

April 21, 6:30 pm. "What Goes on at Avian Haven, an inside look." Laura Lecker will explain what they do, and what birds are showing us is happening.

May 19, 6:30 pm.

"The Eastern Wildway: Everglades to the Arctic." John Davis, cofounder of Wildlands Network.

In 2011 Davis walked, cycled, skied, canoed and kayaked from the Florida Keys to Quebec to make the case for an Eastern Wildway. Davis will share highlights from this 7,600-mile trek through the wilder parts of the East, and talk about the importance of the Maine Woods to this rewilding vision.

Save the Date

PENOBSCOT WATERSHED CONFERENCE 2016
Sharing our Heritage, Challenges and Future



Saturday, April 9, 2016
Point Lookout Conference Center, Northport
seagrant.umaine.edu/penobscot-watershed-conference

Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program

The Friends of Baxter State Park invite current Maine high school sophomores and juniors to apply for a leadership program of a 9-day wilderness experience in Baxter State Park. This 200,000+ acre Park serves as an outdoor classroom. Participants backpack from one end of the Park to the other, working with a variety of specialists and Park staff to understand the wilderness through science, art, storytelling, photography, writing, history, and recreation.

The application deadline is February 8, 2016. Ten participants and six alternates are selected in March. The program begins in April when participants receive required reading materials and other assignments. They then participate in online discussions and do individual research before going to the Park.

The field experience of the MYWLP is tentatively scheduled for August 6-14, 2016.



Participants will then give public presentations to schools and communities.

Thanks to support from generous donors **there is no direct cost to the students.** Trip leadership and logistics are provided by the Chewonki Foundation (www.chewonki.org).

For information or to apply, please visit admin@friendsofbaxter.org



Christmas Bird Count

The Belfast Sector CBC is Saturday, January 2, 2016.

To participate in the count and follow-up potluck, please call 338-1147.

Beginners welcome!

Thank you, Volunteers!

BBWC would not be able to educate, build trails, do scientific research, give programs, or work in the watershed in so many areas without YOUR volunteer service.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to our many volunteers, too numerous to list here, who keep our programs and trails going. A list thanking our 2016 volunteers will be posted at the back table of our monthly programs.

We are an all-volunteer organization, powered by talented, committed volunteers.

Book Discussion a Success

In Oct./Nov. Beverly Roxby led a 4-week discussion of Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*. Up to 40 participants were actively engaged at each session as together we studied the fact-filled, well-written book.

We are considering having more book discussions during the year. If you have a suggestion, please contact us.

BBWC Board Members

Tom King, President
Francine Brown, Vice President
Cloe Chunn, Secretary
Barney Lutsk, Treasurer
Debbie Mitchell, Webmaster
Cathy Morgan
Skip Pendleton
Beverly Roxby
John Tipping
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Karin Wittmann

Outings

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

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 2, Sat. All day. Christmas Bird Count, Belfast sector, followed by potluck. See p. 3.

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.

February 13, Sat. 10:00-1:00. Ski/snowshoe Meadow Brook-Hurds Pond in Swanville, a CMLT preserve. Meet at trailhead next to mailbox #399 Oak Hill Road. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

March 13, Sat. 10:00-1:00. Ski/snowshoe Briggs Meadow in Searsmont. Meet at Reny's outer parking lot to carpool. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

April 16, Sat. 10:00-1:00. Ski/snowshoe the St. Clair Preserve (CMLT) in Northport. Meet at Knights Pond boat launch. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

May 14-21 BIRD WEEK (more info in spring newsletter)

Sat. May 14, 7:00. Sears Island

Sun. May 15, 7:00. Hills to Sea Trail.

Meet at Belfast Area Children's Center, Rt. 137.

Mon. May 16, St. Clair Preserve, Knights Pond

Tues. May 17, McLellan-Poor Preserve, Herricks Rd., Northport

Wed. May 18, Ducktrap River Preserve, Rt. 52, Northport

Thur., May 19, Bessey Preserve

Fri., May 20, Hauk-Fry Preserve; evening Woodcock Watch

Sat. May 21, paddle Goose River

Calendar

Dec. 10, Living Without Plastic program. p. 2

Dec. 12, Hike In-Town Nature Trail. See left.

Jan. 2, Christmas Bird Count. See p.3.

Jan. 16, ski/snowshoe/potluck in Swanville.

See left.

Jan. 21, 6:30 program: Insects/Water quality, p2

Feb. 13, Ski/snowshoe Meadow Brook/Hurds

Pond. See left.

Feb. 18, 6:30 program: Aquaculture, see p.2

Mar. 13, Ski/snowshoe Briggs Meadow,

Searsmont. See left.

Mar. 17, 6:30pm: Changing Arctic Ocean, p.2

April 9, Penobscot Watershed Conference. p.2

April 16, Ski/snowshoe Knights Pond. See left.

April 21, 6:30 program: Avian Haven, p.2

May 14-21: Bird Week. See left.

May 19, 6:30 program: Eastern Wildway from Everglades to Quebec, see p. 2.

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,

and receive up-to-date monthly informational emails from us, please send your email address

to bbwc2016@gmail.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.