



Belfast Bay Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Earth Days Waldo County

THE MESSENGER

is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of imperiled songbirds, and what it will mean to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them.

Come watch birds in flight close-up, and learn how to help them survive.



Free showing at
The Colonial Theatre

6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 19.

Seth Benz will lead a discussion following the movie for those who wish to stay.

Thank you to the Colonial Theatre, Sierra Club, and BBWC

above: black-capped chickadee
below: osprey

photos by Karl Gerstenberger



Avian Haven at the Library

Laura Suomi- Lecker will show us what goes on behind the scenes at Avian Haven, where injured birds are treated medically, cared for, and released whenever possible.

Thursday, April 21, 6:30 pm, Belfast Library

Earth Day Hike!

Friday, April 22, 10:00-12:00

Come join us on the Hills to Sea Trail from City Point Train Station (north end of Passy Rail Trail) to Route 7, about 3 miles. Meet at 10:00 at the train station on Oak Hill Road. Bring water, snack, wind and rain protection, sturdy footwear appropriate for weather conditions. FMI 338-1147

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.

- 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. "Lessons from Avian Haven, a Citizen's Guide to Helping the Birds of Maine." Laura Suomi-Lecker, education and outreach coordinator, will discuss common reasons why birds are admitted to Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center in Freedom and what citizens can do to help our local birds.
- May 4, 6:30-8:30. Book Discussion: Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction*. Part of ongoing Earth Days Waldo County series.
- 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.**

Bird Week is coming! Save the dates

Bald eagle photo by Karl Gerstenberger



Bird Week details in May newsletter

May 14-21 Bird Week

- Sat. May 14, 7:00-8:30 bird Sears Island; 9:00 Searsport Town Hall presentation; nature walks at 10:30 and 12:00 on Sears Island and Long Cove (CMLT)
- Sun. May 15, 7:00 Hills to Sea Trail (meet at Belfast Area Children's Center, Rt. 137)
- Mon. May 16, 7:00 St. Clair Preserve, Knights Pond, Northport CMLT
- Tues. May 17, 7:00 McLellan-Poor Preserve, Belfast-Northport CMLT
- Wed. May 18, 7:00 Ducktrap River Preserve, Lincolnville CMLT
- Thur., May 19, 7:00 Head of Tide Preserve, Doak Road, Belfast CMLT
- Fri., May 20, 7:00 Hauk-Fry Preserve, Swanville CMLT
- Sat. May 21, 9:00 paddle Goose River, Swanville
7:30 evening Full Moon Woodcock Watch at Cloe's farm, Swanville

Penobscot Bay Stewards Program May 2016

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 all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 26 through May 26. 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, Hurricane Island, Indian Island, Blue Hill / Stonington, Searsport, and the Belfast area. 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 (www.belfastbaywatershed.org) 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, email penbaystewards@gmail.com or call **Andrew at 703-407-2968 or Barney at 207-218-1088.**

The application deadline is **April 1.**

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

Penobscot Bay Stewards Program

APPLICATION (deadline April 1)

Please attach an additional sheet of paper, if necessary.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone numbers: _____

E-mail: _____

How did you hear about Penobscot Bay Stewards?

Why are you interested in becoming a Penobscot Bay Steward?

What is your related background and experience include formal and informal training and experience?

What are your skills and interests?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| _____ computers | _____ marine science | _____ fundraising |
| _____ editing/writing | _____ public speaking | _____ photography |
| _____ working with children | _____ graphic arts | _____ mapping |
| _____ naturalist activities | _____ teaching | _____ organizing |
| _____ other: _____ | | |

Please describe your current and previous volunteer activities, including involvement in other organizations.

Do you have any physical limitation that could affect your participation in program activities?

References (Please provide two, and include all information requested.)

Name: 1. _____ 2. _____

Phone number: _____

Relationship: _____

The Penobscot Bay Stewards are volunteers who learn about the natural and cultural elements that shape the Penobscot Bay region and turn this awareness into action. Thirty hours of volunteer service are required of each Steward.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



The Penobscot Watershed Conference

will be held April 8-9 at Point Lookout in Northport. The theme is “Sharing Our Heritage, Challenges, and Future.” BBWC is one of 16 organizations collaborating on the conference.

Residents of the watershed together with scientists, researchers, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, fishermen,

government representatives, and others will discuss the state of the watershed past, present, and future: what needs to happen, what individuals might do, and recommendations for action.

The all-day Saturday conference will open with a ceremony by Butch Phillips of the Penobscot Nation and remarks by Penobscot Nation Chief Kirk Francis, Curt Spaulding of the Environmental Protection Agency, and US Representative Chellie Pingree.

University of Maine professor and marine biologist Robert Steneck will give a keynote presentation, followed by a day of workshops on the themes of maritime heritage and industry, watershed economy, indicators of environmental health, collaborations, recreation and tourism, and policy issues. The workshops feature presentations and panel discussions by more than 70 experts from the watershed and beyond.

The night before....

On Friday, April 8, 6:30 pm, the Island Institute will show the film, *The Great Bear Sea: Reflecting on the Past—Planning for the Future*. The story of First Nations tribes in British Columbia collaborating with the Canadian government to improve their oceans will start a conversation about the challenges Maine's waters are facing and how people can participate in the regional planning process now underway.

For more information, schedule, workshops, and to register, visit

<http://seagrant.umaine.edu/penobscot-watershed-conference>



BBWC Board Members

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Outings

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

March 12, Sat. 10:00-1:00. Ski/snowshoe or hike 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 or hike the St. Clair Preserve (CMLT) in Northport. Meet at Knights Pond boat launch. Bring water, lunch, warm layers.

April 22, Friday. 10:00-12:00. Earth Day hike! Three miles of Hills to Sea Trail. Meet at City Point Train Station, Oak Hill Road, Swanville.

May 5, Thurs. 9:00-12:00 Picnic table building workshop at Head of Tide Preserve (CMLT), Doak Road, Belfast. (Rain date Fri. May 6). Bring work gloves, hand tools. Lunch optional.

June 5, Sunday. 1:00-3:00. A Walk on the Land with Aleta McKeage, professional ecologist. Explore the varied landscapes of the Head of Tide preserve, Doak Road, Belfast. We will learn about the intricate ways that plants, animals and people interact in this diverse and beautiful place. The walk will give us a chance to see and learn about the common plants in the preserve, and their role in the ecosystem.

June 11, Sat. 9:30-12:30. Paddle Knights Pond in Northport. Meet at the boat launch/beach on Knights Pond Road. Bring paddle, boat, PFD, water, lunch, sun, wind, rain, bug protection.

Calendar

Mar. 12, Ski/snowshoe/hike Briggs Meadow, Searsmont. See left.

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

April 8-9, Penobscot Watershed Conference, p.2

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

April 19, 6:30. "The Messenger" free at The Colonial. See page 1.

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

April 22, 10:00. Earth Day hike. See left.

April 26: Day 1, Penobscot Bay Stewards. p. 3

May 5, Thurs. 9:00. Picnic table building. Left.

May 14-21: Bird Week. See page 2.

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

May 21, 9:00. Paddle Goose River, page 2.

May 26, Last day, Pen Bay Stewards

June 5, 1:00. Walk the Landscape, see left.

June 11, 9:30. Paddle Knights Pond. See left.

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

Then paste this email address in your contact list to avoid a trip to Spam.

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.