



BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Belfast Bay Watershed

Volume 11 Issue 1

September 2013

Penobscot Bay Stewards Volunteers

For the past three years, BBWC has organized and planned programming for the Penobscot Bay Stewards volunteer training course. Funded by a grant from the Maine Coastal Program, BBWC has trained twenty new volunteers each May in a series of ten full days of learning about the nature of Penobscot Bay and its watersheds, including fisheries, aquatic ecology, municipal issues, the Penobscot Indian Nation, Penobscot River Restoration Trust, Hurricane Island and other islands, puffins, salmon, alewives, sturgeon, water quality, vernal pools, lobster, Island Institute,

Trail building and maintenance



port of Searsport, geology, and maritime history.



Outdoor ecology education

In exchange for this “crash course” in Penobscot Bay and its surrounding lands, the stewards give back 30 hours of service to conservation by volunteering for an appropriate organization of their choice. For many, the 30 hours have grown into years of dedicated volunteer service.

Some ways the stewards are serving include volunteering in schools with outdoor education; facilitating teacher training in place-based education; serving on city and county councils and boards; working for land trusts in education, trail work, invasive species removal, habitat surveys, and as board members; leading outings and planning programs; doing research on birds, frogs, sturgeon, and water quality; mapping storm drains; creating a Green Map; the Salmon-in-Schools program; local bioblitzes and ones at Acadia National Park; working on Hurricane Island.

The purpose of the Pen Bay Stewards course aligns with BBWC’s mission, to conserve and protect natural places, and to promote careful and caring public access, through research, community-building, and education.

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.

Wednesday Walkers

Twice per month on 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.

Fall Walks

- Sept.11 Sandy Point Beach State Park with Pat Snyder, 567-3137.
- Sept.25 Long Cove Headwaters Preserve, Searsport, with Janet Williams, 548-2941.
- Oct. 9 Tanglewood trails with Linda Hurley and Susan Higgins, 930-3635.
- Oct. 23 Sunrise walk along the beach in Belfast with Barbara Klie, 338-5316.
- Nov.13 Treat Point in Frankfort with Skip Pendleton, 338-4427.
- Dec.11 Ducktrap River Trail, Lincolnville, with Helen Burlingame, 338-2981.

If you would like to lead a Wednesday Walk, please call Barbara at 338-5316.

Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

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.

Oct. 17, 6:30 pm. Roger Fleming of the Herring Alliance and Earth Justice will speak about fisheries, forage fish, and ecosystem changes.

Nov. 21, 6:30 pm. The Northern Lights and other Celestial Phenomena. Dr. Lee Snyder.

Dec.12, 6:30 pm. The National Ocean Policy and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning in New England: How you can be involved. Susan Little Olcott, CMSP Stakeholder Outreach Manager, Ocean Conservancy.

2014

Jan.16, 6:30 pm. FrogWatchUSA: How to Know and Care for Our Frogs. Cloe Chunn, Gary Gulezian

Feb.20, 6:30 pm. Signs of the Seasons. The Timing of Natural Events. Esperanza Stancioff.

Mar.20, 6:30 pm. History of the Maine Coast. Sarah O'Malley, professor, Maine Maritime Academy.

Apr.17, 6:30 pm. Tour the Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage with Coleen O'Connell and learn how it came to be. Meet at the Cohousing on Tufts Road off of Edgecomb Road. Call 338-1147 for directions.

May 15, 6:30 pm. Butterflies, their Life Cycles, Attracting and Photographing Them. Roger Rittmaster.

Cross-County Long Distance Hiking Trail Connects Unity to Belfast Bay

The Waldo County Trails Coalition (WCTC) along with Unity Barn Raisers, Unity College, and other groups, has been working for over three years to create a long distance hiking trail from one end of Waldo County to the other. The trail is complete from Unity to Mofga in Thorndike, and partially established as far as Frye Mountain in Montville and Knox. At Mofga, a network of local trails connects to the main trail. At Frye Mountain, a network of Georges River Land Trust trails and Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance trails are accessible from the main trail.



In spring of 2013, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition joined the WCTC and took on the task of completing the trail from Frye Mountain to Belfast Bay, a distance of 12 to 14 miles, depending on how much the trail curves. A name was agreed on, pictured in the logo above, the Hills-to-Sea Trail.

From BBWC's end, much preliminary work is involved (obtaining landowner permission, finding river crossings that are established already, and avoiding roads) before the trail has a designated route. After that, the process of inviting local communities to help with building and maintaining will follow. Two large landowners are welcoming the trail to pass through their properties: Camp Fairhaven on Lake Passagassawakeag and Bessey and Sons sustainable working forest in Brooks. This scenic area includes Sanborn, Ellis, and Half-Moon ponds as well as Pond Hill and Lake Passagassawakeag.

The Hills-to-Sea Trail task group is at work planning and grant writing for the trail. The task group is composed largely of Penobscot Bay Stewards volunteers (see story, page 1) who are committed to this project until it is completed. Various roles include visiting and talking with landowners, walking through areas under consideration, finding the best and most scenic routes from one point to the next, building the trail (digging, rock work, brush work, bog bridges), signage and blazing, and community relations.

BBWC hopes to complete this eastern end of the trail in the next two years, possibly three.

Anyone wishing to participate in any capacity should contact Bob Kohl, 589-3105 or kohl.bob@gmail.com

Sun and Moon in Autumn

Sept. 19	Full Moon
Sept. 22	Equinox
Oct. 18	Full Moon
Nov. 17	Full Moon

BBWC Board of Directors

John Langhans, President
Francine Brown, Vice Pres.
Cloe Chunn, Secretary
Debbie Mitchell, Treasurer

Maynard Clemons
Tom King
Cathy Morgan
Skip Pendleton
Heide Purinton-Brown
Molly Schaufler
Janet Weinberg
Karin Wittmann

2013-14 Field Trip Calendar

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

September 21, Saturday. 10:00-3:00. Celebrate the Equinox with a hike up Hogback Mountain in Montville. This 5-mile hike begins in a hemlock forest along the Sheepscoot River and culminates with a view of Penobscot Bay. Gradual elevation gain: 400 ft.

Meet at 9:30 at Renys outer parking lot to carpool, or at 10:00 at the Hemlock Hollow Trail. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, binoculars. Cosponsored with Sheepscoot Wellspring Land Alliance (SWLA).

Directions: From the intersection of Rt. 220 and 137 (Map 22, E-1), take 220 south for 1.8 miles, continuing straight onto Halldale Rd. The [Hemlock Hollow trail](#) is 0.5 miles past where Penny Road meets with Halldale, just past a cemetery on your left. Parking is alongside the road.

Oct. 12, Saturday. 10:00-1:00. Paddle Knights Pond in Northport with Deb Smith guiding us to admire and learn about the wetland vegetation of the shoreline. Meet at the boat launch on Knights Pond at 10:00 am. Bring canoe or kayak, PFD, paddle, water, lunch, and protection from rain, wind, and sun. If you need or have extra room in a boat, call 338-1147.

Nov. 10, SUNDAY. Hike Davis Bog Preserve in Morrill, co-sponsored with Mid-Coast Audubon. 9:30: Meet at Renys to carpool, or 10:00 at Davis Bog trailhead, Higgins Hill Road. Bring rain gear, water, lunch.

Dec. 14, Saturday. 10:00-2:00. Hike Sears Island, Searsport. Co-sponsored with Friends of Sears Island. Meet at the end of the causeway at 10:00. Bring rain gear, water, lunch.

Dec. 28, Saturday. Christmas Bird Count. Call 338-0940 to participate.

2014

Jan. 11, Saturday. 10:00-2:00. Join us at Cloe and David's farm in Swanville for outdoor fun (XC ski, snowshoe) and potluck. Or just come at noon for potluck. Call 338-1147 for directions.

Schedule of Meetings/Events

Sept. 11, Wednesday Walkers. See page 2.

Sept. 19, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.

6:30 program: Thomas Kittredge, see p. 2.

Sept. 21, Sat. 9:30. Hike Hogback Mountain. See left.

Sept. 25, Wednesday Walkers. See page 2.

Oct. 9, Wednesday Walkers. See page 2.

Oct. 12, Sat. 10:00. Paddle Knights Pond. See left.

Oct. 17, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.

6:30 program: Fisheries. See page 2.

Oct. 23, Wednesday Walkers. See page 2.

Nov. 10, Sunday. 9:30. Davis Bog, Morrill. See left.

Nov. 13, Wednesday Walkers. See page 2.

Nov. 21, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.

6:30 program: Northern Lights. See page 2.

Dec. 11, Wednesday Walkers. See page 2.

Dec. 12, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.

6:30 program: Ocean Conservancy. See page 2.

Dec. 14, Sat. Hike Sears Island. See left.

Dec. 28, Sat. Christmas Bird Count. 338-0940.

Jan. 11, Sat. 10:00. Ski/snowshoe, potluck. See left.

Jan. 16, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.

6:30 program: FrogWatchUSA. See page 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.

printed on recycled paper