



**Belfast Bay
Watershed**

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 2

December 2013

The Bird Bus rides again! See page 3.

The Christmas Bird Count is Saturday, Dec. 28.

You don't need to be a rocket scientist or even a great birder to be a citizen scientist. We can pair you with an experienced birder if you want to learn more.

To participate, call Seth at 338-0940. Help carry on this world-wide 113-year old tradition! Get involved!



Starting from the City Point train station with maps (J.Isbill)

Hills to Sea Trail A Work in Progress

BBWC has taken on the work of continuing the Hills to Sea Trail from Frye Mountain to Belfast Bay, about 14 miles. The trail starts in Unity and is gradually being built to Frye Mountain. From there it is our project to bring it to the Sea.

In October we were fortunate to win a grant for the advice and help of a National Park Service trail specialist, Julie Isbill. The NPS initiative is to ensure that people everywhere in the US have access to walking in natural settings as often as they want, even every day. The grant does not include funds, except to pay Julie for helping us.

We have begun reconnaissance walks through Belfast, Waldo, Brooks, and Knox, in an effort to meet landowners and ask permission to make a walking trail across their lands. To get involved, contact Bob Kohl, 589-3105, kohl.bob@gmail.com



*"Should we go this way or that way?"
(J.Isbill)*

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

Due to lack of participation, the Wednesday Walkers will be discontinued until further notice.

Last Wednesday Walk

December 11 Ducktrap River Trail, Lincolnville, with Helen Burlingame, 338-2981. Call her for details.

Please take advantage of other hiking and outing activities listed on page 4, in local papers, and posted on our website.

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.

Dec.12, 6:30 pm. The National Ocean Policy and Coastal and Marine Planning in New England: How you can be involved. Susan Little Olcott, Marine Biologist and CMSP Stakeholder Outreach Manager, Ocean Conservancy. The National Ocean Policy has laid out a framework for coastal and ocean planning around the country. Olcott will outline the details of the policy as well as where New England currently stands in the process. She will focus on ways that interested members of the public can participate in the planning process and contribute their knowledge and opinions as the region's plan takes shape. The Ocean Conservancy is a national non-profit organization that educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean and uses science to guide policy that protects the ocean and its wildlife.

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Jan.16, 6:30 pm. FrogWatchUSA: Meet and Get to Know our Frogs and How to Care for Them. Cloe Chunn and Gary Gulezian will help us make friends with the 8 frogs in Maine, and learn how easily they can be monitored. The importance of citizen science cannot be underestimated.

Feb.20, 6:30 pm. Signs of the Seasons. The Timing of Natural Events and How it is Changing. Esperanza Stancioff of the Signs of the Seasons program will tell us what natural events are telling us.

Mar.20, 6:30 pm. Natural History of the Maine Coast. Sarah O'Malley, professor, Maine Maritime Academy, and Maine Master Naturalist, will use landscapes near her home to illustrate the general geological history of the Maine coast.

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. We are in for a treat with Roger's stunning photos of butterflies, their food plants, and their life cycles.

The Bird Bus Rides Again!

The ever popular Bird Bus is being revived this winter. With Seth Benz as driver and expert bird educator, we are collaborating with the YMCA, whose bus will be used. The Bird Bus tour is in cooperation with the Schoodic Bird Ecology Lab at Acadia National Park. From Belfast the bus will head to the Schoodic Point auto loop near Winter Harbor. There will be various stops, and a chance to see the colorful Harlequin Duck. The trip includes a tour of the newly renovated Rockefeller Welcome Center. Please bring a bag lunch. Dress in layers, bring your binoculars and be ready for a memorable day.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013
Time: Depart at 8 am, Return by 3 pm
Location: Waldo County YMCA
Fee: \$26 for YMCA members
Registration \$36 for non-members or 3 month members. Call 338-4598.

Birding from the Belfast Foot Bridge, Saturday, Feb. 15

8:00-11:00 am. Join Ron Harrell with his spotting scope on the foot bridge for an exciting and educational morning of seabirds. This is the start day of the Great Backyard Bird Count, a 4-day citizen science opportunity. Feel free to drop in at the bridge any time during the morning, whether or not you want to engage in the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Monthly Nature Walks in Camden to Start December 7 at the Camden Snow Bowl

Are you interested in learning about birds, trees, flowers, insects, animal tracks and other areas of natural history? The Coastal Mountains Land Trust and Camden Conservation Commission are pleased to co-sponsor monthly, natural history walks in the Camden area.

The walks will take place from 10 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of each month. Area naturalists and the public are invited to take part. The walks are designed to allow experts and amateurs to share their knowledge of natural history. And although we are all for dog education, please leave them at home.

The first walk will be led by Roger Rittmaster, a graduate of the Belfast class of the Maine Master Naturalist Program. He encourages all participants to contribute.

The first walk will take place at the Camden Snow Bowl, meeting in the main parking lot at 10:00 am. Signing up in advance is unnecessary. Notices of location, last minute changes or cancellation will be posted on the Coastal Mountains Land Trust website. For more information or questions, contact Ellen Skoczenski at the Land Trust (ellens@coastalmountains.org; Phone: 207-236-7091).

Sun and Moon in Winter

Dec. 17	Full Moon
Dec. 21	Solstice
Jan. 15	Full Moon
Feb. 14	Full Moon

BBWC Board of Directors

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2013-14 Field Trip Calendar

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

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

Dec. 28, Saturday. Christmas Bird Count. Call 338-0940 to participate. See page 1.

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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.

Feb. 15, Saturday. 9:30/10:00 am. Snowshoe or XC ski Main Stream Preserve, which straddles Stockton and Prospect. Gorgeous trip with a bit of up and down along the stream. About 3 hours. Meet at Renys outer parking lot at 9:30 to carpool, or at 10:00 at the trailhead. Bring water, lunch, warm layers. Cosponsored with Coastal Mountains Land Trust.

March 15, Saturday. 10:00 am. Join Skip Pendleton for a tour of the various skiing and walking trails he has added as offshoots of the Little River Community Trail. Meet at the kiosk at Walsh Ball Field on Rt. 52. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, and footwear for skiing or snowshoeing. 3 hours. Easy to moderate.

April 12, Saturday. 9:30 am. Walk, and help us inaugurate, a newly blazed segment of the Hills-to-Sea Trail (we hope!) in Waldo County. Call 338-1147 for an update and meeting place.

May 10, Saturday. 7:00-10:00 am. Bird walk on Sears Island. Meet at the far end of the causeway in Searsport.

Call 338-1147 with your suggestions for outings you'd like to have us offer.

Schedule of Meetings/Events

- Dec. 7, Sat. Bird Bus to Schoodic Point. See page 3.
Dec. 7, Sat. Nature walk at Snow Bowl. See page 3.
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. See page 1.
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.
Feb. 15, Sat. Birding from Footbridge, see p. 3
Feb. 15, Sat. 9:30 am, Snowshoe/ski Main Stream Preserve, Stockton and Prospect. See left.
Feb. 20, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.
6:30 program: Signs of the Seasons. See p. 2.
Mar. 15, Sat. Hike or ski with Skip. See left.
Mar. 20, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting, library.
6:30 program: Natural History of the Maine Coast. See page 2.
Apr. 12, Sat. Inaugurate new section of Hills to Sea Trail. See left.
Apr. 17, Thurs. 5:00 Board meeting, library
6:30 At the Belfast Ecovillage: tour and Presentation. See page 2.
May 10, Sat. 7:00 am. Bird Walk on Sears Island, see left.
May 15, Thurs. 5:00 Board meeting, library
6:30 program: Maine's Butterflies, 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.