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NATURE NEWS

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"To lead in conserving land, water, and wildlife habitat on the greater Blue Hill Peninsula. To teach and practice a stewardship ethic. To promote ecological, economic, and community health for this and future generations." -Blue Hill Heritage Trust



Inside the Issue

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FERRY LANDING

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

by Eliza Grimnes

My name is Eliza Grimnes and I am in 8th grade at Blue Hill Consolidated School. I really enjoyed going on the Patten Stream and Ferry Landing hikes.





ALEWIVES

Patten Stream is a very critical part of the fish Alewives mating ritual. They will not give birth unless they are in the part of the stream that they were born in. If the stream gets blocked up by dams or other man made things, the Alewives cannot reproduce. Man made fishways are structures that enable fish to pass upstream to give birth and have helped the Alewives reach the spot they were born in.

We had the opportunity to see the fishway on Patten Stream. I was able to stand on the fishway made from rock and think about how this structure has helped many of the Alewives.

PATTEN STREAM

It was a sunny, fall day in October and the leaves were almost at peak foliage on Patten Stream in Surry, Maine. Patten Stream is a wooded, 41 acre hike with 5,000 feet of river frontage. My classmates and I walked the hike with the help of a friendly guide named Sandy.

Patten Stream has lots of Hemlock trees. We collected some data for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This is an invasive species from Asia. It attaches itself to the base of the needle on a Northern Hemlock tree and sucks the sugars out of it. Slowly but surely this kills the tree. We looked at some of the Hemlock trees located on the Patten Stream hike and thankfully found no trace of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The results were a lot like the ones we got from the BHCS trees because we did not find any Woolly Adelgid.

Once we finished collecting data on Woolly Adelgid we kept walking, taking lots of pictures. When we arrived at the summit, everyone sat down and wrote about their senses in writing journals for eight minutes.

I really enjoyed this hike and learned a lot about the wildlife and plants. There was a very interesting species of fungi that was growing all across a large tree. Sandy told us that the fungi could only survive in a climate that had very clean air. It was a wonderful day with my classmates out in nature.



THIS IS THE FISHWAY



THIS IS A NORTHERN
HEMLOCK BRANCH.



Fungi





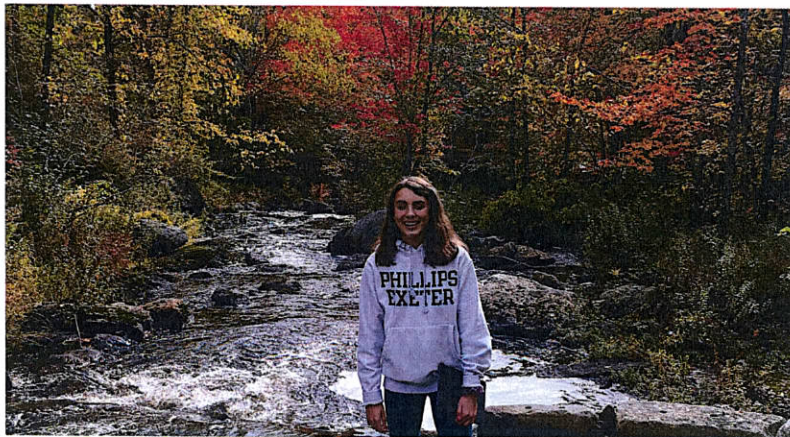
Reflections

PATTEN STREAM

I sit on a wet rock and listen to the water steadily flowing through the stream, it bubbles and pops. I see my classmates writing down their own thoughts and the red, yellow, and orange trees dancing in the light breeze. I breath in a long deep breath of the cool crisp air.

FERRY LANDING

We hiked from the bus to a beautiful spot right on the water. I could walk three steps and my feet would be submerged in cold, salty water. There is a cold snap in the air. I can hear wrapper crinkles as people eat. I look out at the ocean and see the water dip and fall.



WHAT IS A WATER SHED?

A watershed is an area of land where the water drains from the highest point to the lowest point.

For example many streams and rivers that lead into one big body of water like the ocean. We need watersheds in our environment because they help provide us with drinking water and food.

Watersheds can be easily polluted, for example if someone dumps some oil or drops a plastic fork on the ground and doesn't do something about it.

When it rains the water from the rain will carry those pollutants right into our watershed. The watershed that we are living on is called the Bagaduce Watershed.

THIS PHOTO WAS
TAKEN BY AMIA
KNOWLES.



FERRY LANDING

The second hike that my classmates and I went on was called Ferry Landing. This is another Blue Hill Heritage Trust Property. Sitting on twenty-three acres along the Bagaduce River, this once was the home of an old ferry landing. The ferry was used for bringing people, cattle, and supplies from Brooksville to Castine. Taking the ferry allowed people to be much more efficient and saved days of travel. Originally this historical piece of property was owned by The Conservation Trust of Brooksville, Castine and Penobscot. Unable to afford the land, it was then donated to The Blue Hill Heritage Trust who continue to maintain the property today.

The purpose of our Ferry Landing hike was to locate the invasive green crabs from Europe. The crabs are feeding on much of the local sea creatures including clams and lobsters. This in turn is depleting the supply of some local seafood. We were successful in finding over fifteen of these invasive crabs.

I really enjoyed not only learning about this interesting place, but also taking part in helping to remove an invasive creature having a negative impact. I hope I am able to do more.



This is an
invasive green
crab.
This picture was
taken by Jack
Guinness.