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## Casco Bay Currents: Spring 2018

1 message

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 4:19 PM


*Casco Bay Currents*, an email newsletter of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership


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Spring 2018

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## Welcome,

to the Spring 2018 edition of *Casco Bay Currents*, the newsletter for the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP).

You are receiving this quarterly email newsletter because you signed up for our newsletters in the past. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click the link at the bottom of the page.

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## Message from the Director



Last summer, a coalition of groups took a close look at water quality in Casco Bay. The coalition includes Portland Water District, Friends of Casco Bay, University of Maine, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the University of Southern Maine and CBEP. The coalition focused on nutrients (especially bioavailable nitrogen) in and around Portland. Nitrogen acts as a fertilizer in the marine environment, stimulating growth of algae, which can contribute to water quality problems

such as algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen, and coastal acidification.

Numerous water samples were collected from the Bay, our rivers, and an urban stream for laboratory analysis. Automated sensors collected water quality data hour after hour.

In 2018, we will expand this to add newly available instruments to give us an unprecedented view of the distribution of nitrogen in the Bay in space and time.

Last fall, CBEP submitted a proposal on behalf of the coalition, which was awarded a \$10,000 prize in the first round of the "Nutrient Sensor Action Challenge." With the prize money we are buying a sensor that can record data on dissolved inorganic nitrogen at hourly intervals, for weeks at a time. University of Maine researchers will deploy boat-mounted instruments to map the distribution of nitrogen in the Bay at specific times.

The data from two years of intensive study will increase our understanding of sources of nutrients entering the Bay, and where they move after they get there. Results will point towards effective and cost-effective strategies for protecting Bay water quality.

-Curtis C. Bohlen, Director

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## Partner Profile: Nature Groupie



Are you an organization with volunteer opportunities that is looking for ways to better identify, recruit, train or manage volunteers? Want to connect with other people and organizations doing on-the-ground stewardship and citizen science in New England?

**Nature Groupie** (formerly "Stewardship Network: New England") has been working to foster a culture of stewardship in New England since their launch in 2013. Nature Groupie is an online **platform** that connects volunteers with environmental and citizen science

opportunities. With this Network you can use the platform to recruit volunteers, access free training guides, and other resources.

CBEP and other conservation organizations are testing the waters to identify if more Maine-based organizations might find this resource useful. There will be a focus group meeting on April 27 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. to solicit opinion from Casco Bay/southern Maine organizations on whether or not to expand this program. For more information or to participate in this meeting, contact **Victoria** at CBEP.

*Photo: Wells NEER*

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## Want to Get Your Feet Wet?



**Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT)** is looking for volunteers for the summer season to monitor the water quality at Great Brook, to follow up on a spring project with students monitoring Alewife Brook. Training will be provided! Contact Education Coordinator [Natasha Rathlev](#) to get involved.

The **Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT)** is also looking for volunteers for water sampling and alewife fish counting, both starting in May. Read about both opportunities [here](#), and sign up to be a Water Quality Steward [here](#). PRLT has added four sites on the Stroudwater River this year, in addition to their sampling sites on the Presumpscot.

*Photo: Alewife Brook, Cape Elizabeth*

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## Portland Water District Receives 2018 Jay Espy Land Heritage Award

Congratulations to our partner Portland Water District, the recipient of the 2018 Espy Land Heritage Award!

Accepting the award from Tim Glidden, President of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, was Portland Water District's Paul Hunt, Environmental Services Manager (left), and Laurel Jackson, Water Resources Specialist (right). The award was for the District's leadership in collaborating with local land trusts and towns within the watershed to secure forestland and provide natural buffers to protect water sources.



The Espy Land Heritage Award includes a \$5,000 donation to the conservation organization of the recipient's choice. The Portland Water District will direct their gift to Loon Echo Land Trust and Western Foothills Land Trust to further land conservation in the Sebago Lake Watershed.

The District, along with the two land trusts, CBEP, The Nature Conservancy, Highstead, the Open Space Institute and The Trust for Public Land, are collaborators in a new partnership called **Sebago Clean Waters**. This new partnership seeks to protect water quality, community well-being, and the health of fish and wildlife in the Sebago watershed through voluntary forestland protection.

Check [here](#) for more information on Sebago Clean Waters.

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## 2018 Casco Bay Community Grant Awards



*Photo: Harpswell Heritage Land Trust/2016 Project*

- Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, \$1,500: "Great Pond and Alewife Brook Water Quality Monitoring"
  - Town of Harpswell and Harpswell Conservation Commission, \$1100: "Harpswell Citizen Scientists Document Sea Level Changes"
  - Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, \$2550: "Community Clam Conservation"
  - Lakes Environmental Association, \$2,850: "Headwaters Initiative: Exploring our Watershed"
  - City of South Portland and Friends of Pope Preserve, \$2,000: "Pope Preserve"
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## **Connect to Casco Bay: How Place-Based Learning Can Align with Next Generation Science Standards**

**When:**

Saturday, August 4, 2018, 9 a.m.—5 p.m. AND fall call-back date TBD  
*Morning refreshments and lunch provided*

**Where:**

Brunswick High School

**Who:**

K-12 Teachers in eastern Casco Bay region (MSAD 75, Brunswick, RSU 1, WBSAU, independent schools)

**What: (Course Objectives)**

- Learn about Casco Bay-related curriculum and resources that align with Next Gen Science Standards.
- Exchange place-based classroom activity ideas with other educators.
- Identify thematic areas for follow-up workshops.
- Meet with representatives of organizations with educational expertise.
- Test out field activities you can try with your students.
- Take home a bucket of outdoor teaching supplies.

Free! \$5 donation requested to defray costs of lunch (pay that day). Space limited.

Register by emailing [Victoria Boundy](#) or call (207)780-5843.

*Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Available*

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## Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities



On March 20-21, CBEP partnered with the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) to organize a two-day interactive workshop on climate adaptation. NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff walked 45 participants through a framework of strategies, actions, and tools to help communities adapt to a

changing climate.

**A follow-up training, *Climate Vulnerability Assessment Tools: A Hands-On Exercise*** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 29 at Bowdoin College**. This session will be an opportunity to test-drive some online climate vulnerability tools. There will be a brief overview by experts, followed by a hands-on training session where you can try out tools that will help your community identify areas that are most at risk from coastal storm events and sea level rise.



There will be two sessions: An afternoon session, geared at municipal staff, is slated for 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. An evening session, aimed at local volunteer board members, will be that evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Municipal staff or board members are welcome to attend either session, however.

Snacks and drinks will be provided.

For more information and to register for one of the free sessions, follow this [link](#). Space is limited!

Questions: Contact [Victoria Boundy](#).

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## CBEP and Partner Events

- Saturday, April 21, **World Fish Migration Day Walk at Presumpscot Falls**, Falmouth.
- Wednesday, April 25: **The State of the River**, Yarmouth, Royal River Conservation Trust.
- Saturday, May 12, 10-1 p.m.: **Celebrate Our Royal River**, Royal River Park, Yarmouth, Royal River Alliance.
- Wednesday, May 15: **Aquaculture in the New Meadows: A Follow-Up Forum**, West Bath Seaside Grange, West Bath, CBEP.
- Saturday, May 19: **3rd Annual Run of the Royal**, Yarmouth.
- Tuesday, May 29: **Climate Vulnerability Assessment Tools: A Hands-On Workshop**, Brunswick, CBEP.
- Wednesday, June 13: **CBEP Management Committee meeting**, South Portland.

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