



Things to Do Outdoors

BANGOR — Pedal the Penobscot Training Ride, led by 2015 celebrity rider Tim Godaire, at 5:20 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, starting in the parking lot next to Sea Dog Brewing Co. for an approximately 12-mile ride through Brewer, covering the last five miles of the Pedal the Penobscot courses.

BANGOR — Join local photographer Michele Benoit for a photography walk at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at Northeast Penjajawoc Preserve on Kittredge Road. Bring a camera and explore the landscapes and wildlife. Benoit will share photography tips and point out great photo opportunities along the two-mile loop trail. Dress appropriately for the weather and trail conditions. For information, call 942-1010.

GRAND LAKE STREAM — “Waggin’ Trail Hike,” 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, meeting at Shaw Street Beach. Dog-friendly hike offers two options for hiking: one for dogs on leash and one for dogs off leash. For information, call Downeast Lakes Land Trust at 796-2100 or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

GRAND LAKE STREAM — Join Downeast Lakes Land Trust staff and volunteers to learn about geocaching, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at Grand Lake Stream School on Water Street. Open to all ages, participants should come dressed in long pants and closed-toed shoes and be ready for walking over uneven terrain. GPS and compasses will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. For information, call 796-2100 or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

GRAY — Build a Fairy House, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at Maine Wildlife Park, 56 Game Farm Road. Park open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. Admission free for ages 3 and younger, \$5.50 for ages 4-12, \$7.50 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors, \$3.50 per person for groups of 15 or more. For information, call 657-4977 or visit www.mainewildlifepark.com.

PALERMO — Family-friendly paddle of Branch Pond with Gerry Saunders with the Sebasticook Regional Land Trust and Bernice Nadler with Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, starting at the launch site accessed from Branch Mills Road, next to the Grange. For information, call Anna Fiedler at 589-3230 or visit swla-maine.org.

STEUBEN — Downeast Coastal Conservancy will host a full moonrise hike, 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at Pigeon Hill Preserve. Meet at the trailhead about 4.5 miles south of Route 1 on Pigeon Hill Road. Hikers should be prepared to hike in low light conditions by bringing their own flashlights. Bring snacks, water, blanket, binoculars and camera if desired. This hike is weather dependent; check for updates the day of the event online at www.Facebook.com/Downeast-CoastalConservancy or by calling 255-4500.

WINTER HARBOR — Acadia Art Adventure, 2-4 p.m. Saturdays, through Aug. 29, short walk and art lesson with an artist-in-residence. Appropriate for ages 12 and older. Wear closed-toe, sturdy hiking shoes. Meet at Eliot Hall kiosk at Schoodic Institute in Acadia National Park.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.



COURTESY OF ROGER STEVENS JR.
A girl and a dog vault into the water to cool off on a warm Maine summer day.



COURTESY OF PATRICIA CLAUS
A perfect summer day off Brooklin, lounging on a white shell beach on Seller's Island after kayaking out from Naskeag Point.



COURTESY OF MARCY VIDAL
Early morning on Madagascal Pond.

Summer in Maine

What does it mean to you?

BY JOHN HOLYOKE
BDN STAFF

The query was a simple one, and one we were sure would evoke memories and elicit plenty of responses: What does “Summer in Maine” mean to you?

To some, it’s water. To others, it’s time spent with friends and relatives deep in the woods. Or maybe it’s sunrises ... sunsets ... campfires ... fireflies.

Summer in Maine is, quite honestly, something different to everyone who’s fortunate to spend one here. And though summer isn’t over, even though some view Labor Day as the unofficial end to the magical season, here’s a sampling of what our readers had to say ... and what they chose to show us in their photos.

Consider them postcards, if you will, from (or in some cases, to) our little corner of the country:

From David Bonar: The last week of July and first week of August have become symbolic in our residence. Those are the weeks that we escape the heat and humidity of the mid-Atlantic and trek to Maine for our summer vacation.

Sweat dripping from our brow, we climb into our vehicle, having packed the camping gear, bikes and kayaks, turn the a/c on high and begin the 500-mile drive north.

We wind our way through Delaware, onto the Jersey Turnpike, then north along the Garden State Parkway to the Taconic Parkway in New York. Traffic is usually horrendous. It’s noisy, congested and usually punctuated by drivers who appear more angry than determined to get to where they are going safely.

The journey continues, sealed in our vehicle, through Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and I feel the blood pressure ebb as we slip through the rolling hills.

At long last, the Kittery Bridge and the wide expanse of the Maine

Turnpike. The traffic thins, the sun seems brighter, the skies are a beautiful blue and we roll the windows down to breathe the clear salt air, and the aroma of fir and balsam that welcomes us with open arms. We are home!

From Pamela Martin: It was fun to take a trip back — what you described as “fleeting” is all too true! The smiles, gatherings, longer days and glorious color make it one of the dearest seasons in Maine! I love all four, but summer rests in my heart and always will! I grew up on Portage Lake during the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. Our family returns like the ducks and geese to this part of the Fish River chain to begin new memories with new generations. Travels around the state do happen, but we find it hard to leave our little corner of paradise sometimes. It will be fun to see what you get! I’m sure they will all be full of color, love and light! We are quite blessed to live in such a magnificent state!

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COURTESY OF PAMELA MARTIN
Sunset in Portage, August 2015.



COURTESY OF NANCY THRUSH
Maine: The Way Life Should Be. Two swimmers leap into the water in Millinocket.

Gulls’ sheer numbers impressive

“Go west, young man,” Horace Greeley wrote in 1865, and I approve. That will make things less crowded for me Down East, which is where I am going.

The upper coast of Washington County is terrific any time of year, but September is magical. Head Harbor Passage, the channel between Eastport and Campobello, features the largest whirlpool in the Western Hemisphere. “The Old Sow” gets its name from the grunting, piglike sound it makes as it swirls and gurgles on the strong tide. Or it’s the corruption of “sough,” an old English word for moaning sounds. Opinions differ. The tidal rush of water here has been clocked at up to 17 mph



BOB DUCHESNE
GOOD BIRDING



BOB DUCHESNE PHOTO
Black-legged Kittiwake.

The absurd tide and frigid water create conditions for thriving sea life. Harbor seals and porpoises are abundant. Minke whales patrol the channel, swimming directly into the whirlpool when it suits them. Finback and humpback whales also visit the mouth of the passage.

But it’s the gulls that excite me. Bear with me here, and rest assure that I am normal. Gulls make me yawn, an opinion shared by many birders. But what happens in this channel is astounding. There is the usual complement of Maine’s common gulls: heron, great black-backed and ring-billed. These are joined by countless Bonaparte’s gulls and black-legged kittiwakes. By countless, I mean I am too lazy to count them. I’d estimate 20,000.

The kittiwakes are not a surprise. The southernmost nesting colony in eastern North America is just up the bay on White Island. Later in summer, they descend into the channel in big numbers, roosting on the islands at slack tides. You can often see them on the offshore rocks at Quoddy Head State Park in Lubec, too.

The Bonaparte’s gulls
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Bangor volunteer builds high-rise ‘condos’ for bats

BY AISLINN SARNACKI
BDN STAFF

Towering 15 feet in the air, two giant bat houses stand sentinel over a Bangor field. These new constructions, built and donated to the Bangor Land Trust by Bangor resident Bill Childs, recently were erected at BLT’s West Penjajawoc Preserve.

Each “bat condo” can hold up to 2,000 bats and was designed to be the perfect home for bat maternity colonies, where baby bats are born and raised each spring.

“It’s really important to have these condos right now because bats are in extreme peril in the U.S.,” bat biologist Katelin Craven, chairperson of the BLT programs committee, said.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the bat houses on Aug. 25, Craven explained the design of the bat houses and talked about white-nose



COURTESY OF SCOTT DARLING
A little brown bat perches on a researcher’s glove in Vermont.

syndrome, a disease that has decimated bat populations in the U.S. in the past decade.

“Building houses like this might help them rebuild their populations,” Craven said.

White-nose syndrome was first discovered in the U.S. in 2006 in a cave in New York. Since then, it has spread rapidly, killing more

than 5.7 million bats.

The disease didn’t reach Maine until spring of 2011. But by 2013, three bat species in Maine — little brown bats, northern long-eared bats and eastern small-footed bats — saw somewhere between 80 and 100 percent declines in their populations.

“It’s very important we give them the best chance at being able to successfully reproduce,” said Craven, who explained that most bats gather in maternal colonies in the spring to reproduce because there is safety and warmth in numbers.

The new bat houses in the West Penjajawoc Preserve are modeled after a design provided by Bat Conservation International, an organization dedicated to protecting the world’s more than 1,300 species of bats.

Bat house builder Bill Childs of
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COURTESY OF DONNE SINDERSON
Bill Childs carries one of two bat “condos” that he constructed and donated to the Bangor Land Trust to install in a field in the land trust’s West Penjajawoc Preserve in Bangor.