

BIOGRAPHIES

Sixth Annual Down East Spring Birding Festival, May 22-25, 2009 and Fifth Annual Birding Elderhostel on Campobello Island, May 22-27, 2009

Chris Bartlett

Chris has been exploring the shores of Cobscook Bay for 19 years and is interested in all aspects of nature in the area. As field staff for the Maine Sea Grant Program, he has conducted numerous research and educational programs on marine ecology. Chris and his family live in Eastport, where he enjoys birding on a regular basis.

Rich Bard

Rich is been a wildlife biologist with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Having begun his career as a zookeeper, Rich has spent most of his adult life moving around the country working with various wild animals. He settled near the coast of Maine in 2004, and regularly offers nature programming for the Cobscook Community Learning Center and others. Rich also writes a regular column, *Leave the Trail Behind*, for the online blog, www.ecoearth.com.

Marion Bates

Marion has been an avid birder for 38 years. She spends much of her free time learning new ways to identify and describe bird vocalizations. She also studies the habitat preferences of eastern Maine's breeding birds. Marion has a degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Avian Ecology from the University of Maine in Machias, where she also has been a teaching assistant for several field ornithology classes. Marion has been censusing birds for the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge since 1998 and has led many bird tours in Washington County, including for the American Birding Association.

John Berry

John is president of the Merrymeeting Chapter of Maine Audubon and has led birding trips for them for nearly ten years. He started birding while growing up in Washington County, but became an avid birder fifteen years ago. Besides Maine, John has birded in Texas, Arizona, Alaska, Costa Rica and Ecuador. He is now a semi-retired financial management consultant.

Mark Berry

Mark is Executive Director of Downeast Lakes Land Trust in Grand Lake Stream. He oversees wildlife habitat management, sustainable forestry, and recreational access on the 27,000-acre Farm Cove Community Forest, as well as the land trust's conservation projects and education programs. Mark grew up in Maine, has conducted bird research in Idaho, Oregon, and Colorado, and worked as a field science instructor in Oregon and a naturalist on Antarctic ecotourism trips. Prior to returning to Maine to work with Downeast Lakes Land Trust in 2006, he managed a conservation area in north-central Oregon.

Seth Betz

Seth Benz has amassed nearly 30 years of experience in the fields of conservation science and environmental education. His professional positions have included: Director of Hog Island Audubon Center and Camp; Education Director of the Audubon Expedition Institute; interpretive park ranger at Acadia National Park; Project Puffin Seabird Restoration Program supervisor; and Assistant Curator of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. He has conducted raptor migration research, developed and implemented ecological education programs, published articles concerning environmental education, raptor migration, island living, and avian breeding bird research. He lives in Belfast, Maine with his wife, Susan Burwell, and their dogs Sadie and Sophie.

Bob Duchesne

Bob became interested in birds in the first grade. Interest grew to passion and today Bob is leading the effort to develop a Maine Birding Trail. He is currently President of the Penobscot Valley Chapter of Maine Audubon, and serves as a State Trustee. Bob is a frequent field trip leader for Audubon, and now operates his own guiding service with his wife, Sandi. Together, they have led trips from Atlantic Canada to the Florida Everglades. When not birding, Bob is a member of the Maine House of Representatives, where he serves on the Natural Resources Committee.

Steve Ftorek

Steve Ftorek adopted Cobscook Bay and Passamaquoddy Bay as his home over 25 years ago and has learned to love and appreciate their beauty. His years of exploration on the bay can take you to many special places. Steve is also a Registered Maine Sea Kayak and Recreation Guide.

Tess Ftorek

Tess Ftorek is a native Eastporter who grew up playing on the shores and on the waters of Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays. Her lifelong love of the area will be evident as she shares her knowledge with you. Tess is a Registered Maine Sea Kayak and Recreation Guide.

Alan Furth

Alan is the Executive Director of the Cobscook Community Learning Center. Before that, from 1978 to 1998, he served on the faculty of the Audubon Expedition Institute, and in that capacity explored ecosystems across North America. He has lived and taught in the Cobscook Bay region for thirty years and takes great joy in sharing explorations in the outdoors with people of all ages.

Captain Butch Harris

Born and raised in Eastport, Captain Harris has been a seafaring man all his life - as a fisherman, boat builder, and boat captain. Butch has fished for lobsters, scallops, and urchins, has worked in the farmed salmon business, and has been taking fishing parties out to sea for decades. During the summer, he captains the *Sylvina Beal*, a three-master schooner, for bird watching, whale watching, and dinner cruises in the Bay. Butch also has built both wooden and fiberglass boats, and recently completed a large two-masted schooner, the *Haley Matthew*, which he captains for 2-3 day cruises.

Ruta Jordans

Ruta Jordans is president of APPLE, the Association to Promote and Protect the Lubec Environment, and manager of Tours of Lubec and Cobscook, which is part of APPLE. APPLE was formed in 2005 to promote and protect environmentally sound tourism and economic development in the Lubec area. Ruta herself is a lifelong traveler who loves learning about how history has influenced various locations, Ruta has found this especially true between Lubec and Campobello. She delights in sharing the natural beauty as well as the crazy quilt history of this area.

Dr. Gayle Kraus

Dr. Kraus is Professor of Marine Ecology at the University of Maine Machias. Her interests include marine invertebrates and vertebrates, food webs, and seasonal distribution - especially of marine birds. Gayle is currently taking a leave of absence from wildlife rehabilitation, but has cared for many local species of birds and mammals.

Bill Kolodnicki

Bill is a Refuge Manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has been stationed at Moosehorn NWR since 2004. Previously he was at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Long Island NWR Complex, and with the National Audubon Society. He has been a bird watcher all his life and his graduate work dealt with colonial nesting waterbirds.

Roland LaVallee

Born in Connecticut, Roland spent his early life observing wildlife and nature. While growing up, he practiced carving and spent many hours hunting and fishing. Roland began carving birds and other wildlife seriously in 1982 and has been carving full time since 1997. He produces and sells about 300 pieces a year from his studio gallery CROW TRACKS. Roland volunteers his time as Secretary of the Eastport Area Chamber of Commerce, and as a Board Member of the Eastport Arts Center and the Friends of Moosehorn. Mr. LaVallee is a member of the Eastport Gallery and of Ducks Unlimited.

Jeff Lyons

A native Mainer and a Maine Master Guide, Jeff now makes Woodland, ME in northern Washington County his home. Jeff worked for six years for LL Bean as a product specialist for hunting, fishing, and recreational gear, and is currently starting a local guiding business called County Living Guide Service.

Dr. Carl Merrill

Dr. Merrill is a biologist and Director of Suffolk University's Friedman Field Station (FFS) in Edmunds. He has been studying and teaching about intertidal and near shore ecology of the Cobscook Bay since 1976 and has led field

trips about intertidal ecology for groups ranging from grade school, to undergraduate to Elderhostel at various locations in Maine, most often at or near the FFS.

Maurry Mills

Maurry is a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has been stationed at the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge since 1985. He also has worked at the Rachel Carson Refuge in southern Maine and the Great Swamp Refuge in New Jersey. Maurry has been watching birds and other wildlife since the early 1970s. Although his primary interest is in migratory birds, Maurry also has worked with mammals and herps. Mr. Mills is a volunteer with the Dennys River Watershed Council and the Quoddy Regional Land Trust.

Captain Andrew Patterson

Captain Patterson has operated Bold Coast Charter Company, a birdwatching and sightseeing boat tour operation out of Cutler Harbor, over the past 22 years. Andy has extensive knowledge of the coastal Maine and Bay of Fundy marine environment, and of its seabirds and marine mammal inhabitants. Captain Patterson also volunteers time and resources each season to assist with area seabird restoration and research.

Alana Ranney

Originally from Texas, Alana has lived in Down East Maine most of her life. She is a nature photographer and is familiar with many birds in the Cobscook Bay Area. Alana was the festival's official photographer in 2004. Examples of her photographs can be found on the festival web site, and on her own web site - www.afinephoto.com. Alana works full time for the Quoddy Regional Land Trust and in her spare time, when her family can spare her, she loves hiking and exploring the area's parks and nature preserves.

Andrew Slater

Andy is the president of the Friends of Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, a group which actively works to promote and support the refuge. An active photographer, Andy is a life-long resident of Calais and enjoys with opportunities for wildlife photography that are afforded by living so close to national wildlife refuge. Andy has been taking photographs at Moosehorn for over 20 years. Eagles have always been his favorite subject.

Stephen Smart

Stephen is the Natural Area Interpreter at the Roosevelt Campobello International Park, where he has worked for the past 14 years. He conducts guided tours of the Park's seashore and Eagle Hill Bog, takes care of geographic information systems issues, and has had shoreline assessment team training in the event of oil spills. Stephen attended Acadia and St. Thomas Universities, and seminars at the Humboldt Field Research Station, where he has honed his skills of identifying, describing, and interpreting biophysical factors that contribute to variations of forest stands in landscapes over space and time, and of botanical classification of wetland and upland plant families.

Barry Southard

Originally from New Jersey, Barry has been birding actively for about 30 years. He has done BBS in New Mexico and has participated in surveys for the endangered southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Northern Goshawk in New Mexico and Colorado. Barry also was a nature/birding guide for an eco-lodge in Costa Rica. Mr. Southard most recently worked for the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District trying to help reclaim Atlantic salmon habitat. Barry has participated in 2 years of MAPS banding, currently performs BBS for the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Milbridge, and has led hikes for the Down East Spring Birding Festival for three years.

Carroll Tiernan

Carroll is a 22-year employee of Maine Audubon and has been selling optics for that long. She has trained with Nikon, Swarovski, Swift, and at Birdwatch America, and has been teaching optic clinics at Hog Island, Fields Pond, and Gilsland Farm, as well as at the LL Bean Kayak Symposium, for several years. Carroll's approach is to teach you about optics so you can select the best for your use and budget.

Andy Weik

Andy is a wildlife biologist with Moosehorn NWR of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His primary responsibility is habitat management for American Woodcock and other early successional forest wildlife. Prior to coming to Moosehorn in 2005, Andy was a biologist with the Bird Group of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, where he worked with waterfowl, grassland birds, raptors, and upland game birds. Temporary jobs earlier in his career afforded Andy the opportunity to bird in a wide variety of ecosystems, from arctic taiga to tropical forests.