

WERU Issues & Programs Q1 2020

(Unless otherwise noted the listed programs aired at 4:00 p.m. and were 58 minutes in length.)

RadioActive 1/2/20, 5pm : Proposed Pesticide Ban in Blue Hill and Organic Farmer Eliot Coleman Speaks on Organic Agriculture

Producer/Host: Meredith DeFrancesco

Today we look at a newly proposed ordinance that would prohibit the sale, application and storage of synthetic pesticides in the town of Blue Hill, with exemptions, including for commercial agriculture. We also hear part of a talk hosted by the Blue Hill Healthy Ecosystems group by organic farmer, agricultural researcher, author and educator, Eliot Coleman.

Guests:

Rick Traub, Blue Hill Healthy Ecosystems

Eliot Coleman

Change Agents 1/2/20, 4pm: Sherri Mitchell on Issue Affecting Native Americans

Producer/Host: Steve Wessler

-Environmental issues & Native Americans

-Spirituality

-Intrusion on sacred sites

Guest: Sherri Mitchell, indigenous rights attorney and author of Sacred Instructions

Maine Currents 1/7/20, 4pm: CMP Corridor Draws Opposition from Across the Political Spectrum

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

Production assistance: Meredith DeFrancesco

Audio provided by: North American Megadam Resistance

If you come from a politically mixed family here in Maine, chances are there was one topic you were able to discuss over the holidays without anyone getting disowned. The New England Clean Energy Connect – or the CMP Corridor as it is widely known- is drawing opposition from all over the political spectrum. Building the corridor would involve cutting 53 miles through undeveloped forest in Western Maine. According to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the damage would fragment the largest contiguous temperate forest in North America and perhaps the world. The corridor would traverse Maine to bring pricier energy, that supporters call “green”, from HydroQuebec dams in Canada to Massachusetts.

Maine Governor Janet Mills supports the project, after, she says, she negotiated with HydroQuebec and “insisted that the project include electric vehicle charging stations, provisions to support renewable energy, broadband access, and heat pumps, as well as cash relief for ratepayers over and above the benefits of lower electricity prices”. Many towns that initially were in support have changed their minds, as has the Sportsman Alliance of Maine after realizing that a majority of their members were in opposition.

The guests on this program represent some of the different parts of the political spectrum that oppose the project.

Dawn Neptune Adams is a member of the Penobscot Nation, a narrator and citizen-journalist with Sunlight Media Collective, Wabanaki liaison to the Maine Independent Green Party, and a Racial Justice Consultant to the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine. She met with the Cree and Innu People from the North American Megadam Resistance speaking tour in November to learn more about the situations in their territories. We hear some clips from their presentation during this program as well. And joining us by phone, from arguably what is usually the other end of the political spectrum, is Tom Saviello, former Republican State Senator Franklin County and former State Representative for 6 towns in Franklin County including his home town of Wilton. He is the former Chair of the joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources. He has a BS degree in Forestry from the University of Tennessee, and an MS in Agronomy & a PHD in Forest Resources from UMO. He has worked for 33 years in the forest industry starting as a research forester and retiring as the environmental manager at the Androscoggin Mill.

Talk of the Towns 1/8/20, 4pm: Knitting as Craft, Knitting as Life Force

Producer/Host: Ron Beard

Key Discussion Points:

What led each guest to knitting and how does it factor into their lives now? As members of a weekly knitting group at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor, what are the benefits you and other members see. What community projects have been successful?

What do we know about the history of knitting, both for functional clothing and as a craft?

What periods in history brought knitting to the forefront?

What led to the founding Knit Fit at the Mount Desert Island YMCA (participants knit while walking for light exercise) ?

How did Dayana Knits come to be as a facebook page and blog... what is the audience and response?

What was the experience of traveling to the Shetland Island with a focus on the wool and knitting community there?

How would someone wanting to learn knitting get started... what are the basics? Where can a beginner get support... on their own and in groups? What are your favorite on-line resources?

Guests:

Jill Goldthwait, former State Senator

Michelle McCann, originator of Knit Fit, MDI YMCA

Dayana Krawchuk, blogger Dayana Knits

Jen Crandall, MDI High School

Democracy Forum 1/17/20, 4pm: Census 2020: Everyone Counts

Host: Ann Luther, League of Women Voters of Maine

We talk about the upcoming decennial census.

How it's going to work?

Problems on the horizon

The consequences for Maine and the nation.

Guests:

Margo Anderson, Distinguished Professor Emerita of History and Urban Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, author of the book, *The American Census: A Social History*

Matt Dunlap, Maine's 49th Secretary of State, now serving his fourth consecutive term and seventh term overall. He also Chairs of the State's Complete Count Committee.

Maine Currents 1/21/20, 4pm: Elections 2020 & Impeachment

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

Call in show discussion of the upcoming 2020 elections and the ongoing impeachment process. Some subject areas covered include:

What are your thoughts about how the impeachment process is going to impact the 2020 elections?

Should the 1st primaries be held in states more diverse than Iowa and NH?

Primaries vs caucuses

In which elections will Ranked Choice Voting be used here in Maine?

Guests:

Professor Amy Fried is the Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Maine. She also oversees the Maine Policy Scholar Program at UMaine, and has researched and written extensively about public opinion.

Ralph Chapman served 4 terms as the State Representative for Blue Hill and several surrounding towns in Hancock County. He served first as a Democrat, then as an Independent and finally as a Green party member.

Power for the People 1/22/20, 4pm: Wood Stoves

Producer/Host: Steve Kahl

Studio Engineer: Amy Browne

Discussion included:

a) safety considerations

b) types of stoves

c) firewood purchasing and storage

Guest: Paul Carey, owner North Winds Stove Shop, Ellsworth

Let's Talk Animals 1/23/20, 4pm: Camel Crazy

Producer/Host: Dr. John Hunt

Studio Engineer: Amy Browne

How camel's milk helps autism

What is in camels milk?

Camel biology and behavior

Guest: Pat Christina Adams- author, journalist

RadioActive 1/23/20, 5pm: Update on Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act Changes

Producer/Host: Meredith DeFrancesco

Maine Judiciary Committee Votes to Accept Recommendations of Task Force on Changes Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

On January 14th, the Maine Legislature's Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act. The Task Force met July through December 2019, to review and propose changes to the Settlement Act, with the goal of recognizing the inherent sovereignty of the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Micmac Tribes within Maine, in concert with the status of other federally recognized Tribes throughout the country. Today we hear from Tribal leaders.

Chief Kirk Francis, Penobscot Nation, president of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Natural Resource Committee Chair
Chief Clarissa Sabattis, Houlton Band of Maliseets
Vice Chief, Elizabeth Dana, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

RadioActive Special 1/30/20, 5pm: Climate Emergency Call-In

Producer/Host: Meredith DeFrancesco

a) Since October, South Portland, Portland, Bar Harbor and Brunswick have all declared a Climate Emergency. Today we speak with local youth who were instrumental in these efforts and continue to escalate a movement for climate action.

b) We discuss the imperative for immediate action and the necessity and opportunity to concentrate on action at local governmental level.

c) On January 21st, the Bar Harbor Town Council additionally passed a measure to create a Climate Emergency Task Force with mission of drawing down the town's carbon emissions by 2030. We discuss this and yesterday's meeting of the State's newly formed Maine Climate Council, and the Maine Youth for Climate Justice's Youth Voices Day.

Guests:

Sirohi Kumar, MDI High School student, MDI High School ECO Team, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, founding member of Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Coalition.

Adam Nusselien, MDI High School student, MDI High School ECO Team, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, founding member of Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Coalition.

Thomas Korstanje - MDI High School student, MDI High School ECO Team, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, founding member of Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Coalition.

Anna Siegel - 8th grade student at Friends School of Portland, ME Strikes, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Ania Wright- student at College of the Atlantic, Youth Representative on the Maine Climate Council, founding member of Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Coalition, Earth in Brackets (COA)

Laura Berry- recent College of the Atlantic graduate, Program Manager for the College of the Atlantic- Community Energy Center, director for research and publications for the Climate Mobilization Project.

Maine Currents 2/4/20, 4pm: A Few Concerned Citizens vs Larry Lockman

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

On January 28th, the Penobscot County Commissioners (PCC) unanimously passed a resolution in support of refugee resettlement in the county. The vote comes at a time when there are no plans to resettle refugees in the area, and likely would have not taken place

had State Rep Larry Lockman (R-Bradley) not raised the issue at the commission's previous meeting- where he encouraged them to take the opposite action.

At the PCC's January 14th meeting, Lockman asked the commission to oppose refugee resettlement. At that meeting the commission took no action on his request, which came at a time when Trump's 2019 Executive Order, which would have allowed local governments to reject refugees, was being reviewed by the federal court. The day after Lockman appeared before the PCC, the US District Court blocked Trump's order.

Area residents who attended the PCC's January 28th meeting said they heard about Lockman's proposal, and felt the PCC's decision to not take action did not go far enough. They asked the commissioners to consider a resolution in support of refugee resettlement, should there be plans for that in the future.

Today we have some background on Lockman's attempts to pass anti-immigration legislation in the state. We talk to Crash Barry, an investigative journalist for Mainer (formerly The Bollard), who went undercover in 2018 to expose Lockman's Maine First Project, and we listen in on the testimony and deliberations at the PCC's January 28th meeting.

Rep. Lockman did not respond to our request for a comment.

Healthy Options 2/5/20, 4pm: Mindful Eating

Host/Producer: Rhonda Feiman

Co-producer: Petra Hall

Production assistance: Vic Tredwell & Joel Mann

Program Topic: Mindful Eating

Key Discussion Points:

- 1) What does "mindful eating" mean?
- 2) How can we balance eating for nourishment with eating for enjoyment?
- 3) Why is it so important to ask the question, "Am I Hungry?" before eating?
- 4) Why would we eat when we are not hungry?
- 5) What role do emotions play in our eating habits?
- 6) How can we learn to identify our own nutritional needs?

Guest: Hester Kohl, National Board-Certified Health & Wellness Coach, Certified Personal Trainer, and facilitator & coach of the "Am I Hungry? Mindful Eating Program"

RadioActive 2/6/20, 5pm: Youth Speak Out at Maine Climate Council Meeting

Producer/Host: Meredith DeFrancesco

Today we hear the voices of youth speaking out on January 29th, in Augusta at the State's newly formed Maine Climate Council, and the Maine Youth for Climate Justice's Youth Voices Day.

The youth representative on the state's climate council, Ania Wight, gave the Climate Council a report back from the UN Climate talks in Madrid in December. Maine Youth for Climate Justice held a press conference to offer their perspectives and present their four demands on the work and goals of the Maine Climate Council. This includes demanding "that achieving zero-emissions by the year 2030 be the ultimate and official goal for the state and the Maine Climate Council". Youth demands and petition

Since October, South Portland, Portland, Bar Harbor and Brunswick have all declared a Climate Emergency. On January 21st, the Bar Harbor Town Council additionally passed a

measure to create a Climate Emergency Task Force with mission of drawing down the town's carbon emissions by 2030.

Guests:

Ania Wright- College of the Atlantic student, Youth Representative on the Maine Climate Council, founding member of Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Coalition, Earth in Brackets (COA), Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Emma Sawyer, University of Southern Maine student, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Felipe Andres Fontecilla Gutierrez , College of the Atlantic student from Chile, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Anna Siegel – 8th grade student at Friends School of Portland, ME Strikes, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Sophie Dowling – Mount Desert Island High School, founding member of Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Coalition, Mount Desert Island High School ECO team, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Talk of the Towns 2/12/20, 4pm: Union River Center for Innovation & the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Producer/Host: Ron Beard

Studio Engineer: Amy Browne

Background on Ellsworth and its regional economy– historic and present day

Ellsworth's overall economic development strategy

What led to the Union River Center for Innovation as part of that strategy?

How does the Center approach its work?

The several companies who are based at the Center seem to stem from innovation based in scientific research and technology... is that by chance or design?

What are some other common challenges for start-up enterprises?

Are there different challenges for what you refer to as next generation of growth companies?

Are there some characteristics that are either hard-wired into next gen entrepreneurs, or skills and traits that can be learned and fostered? What makes for a successful entrepreneur?

Guests:

Janna Richards, Economic Development Director, City of Ellsworth

Kat Taylor, Entrepreneur in Residence & co founder Genotyping Center for America

Aaron Cox, Katadyn (Steri-pen)

Chuck Carter, Eagre Games

Maine Currents 2/18/20, 4pm: Elections 2020 Edition

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

Our monthly discussion of Elections 2020 related issues. Today we also discuss the League of Women Voters – celebrating their 100th anniversary this year- with Ann Luther.

Guests:

Professor Amy Fried is the Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Maine. She also oversees the Maine Policy Scholar Program at UMaine, and has researched and written extensively about public opinion.

Ralph Chapman served 4 terms as the State Representative for Blue Hill and several surrounding towns in Hancock County. He served first as a Democrat, then as an Independent and finally as a Green party member.

Ann Luther, Treasurer (and past-President) of the League of Women Voters of Maine, leader of their Advocacy Team, and host of Democracy Forum, which airs here on WERU at 4pm on the 3rd Friday of every month, and is produced in collaboration with the league.

All About Aging 2/19/20, 4pm: Death with Dignity

Producer/Host: Peg Cruikshank

Key Discussion Points:

- Maine law passed Sept 2019
- Many safeguards and only an individual may hasten her death
- Although a majority of Mainers favor Death with Dignity, some groups such as Hospice oppose it
- Other hospice groups support the concept
- Guest interviewed just back from first national Medical Aid in Dying conference in Berkeley

Guests:

Valerie Lovelace, Director of Maine Death with Dignity

Patricia Hymanson, D-York, chair of legislature's Health and Human Services Committee and sponsor of the Maine law

Democracy Forum 2/21/20, 4pm: Super Tuesday Comes to Maine March 3

Host: Ann Luther, League of Women Voters of Maine

- How is the presidential primary going to work,
- How will delegates to national conventions be apportioned and selected,
- What role will municipal caucuses continue to play,
- What will be the differences among the parties.

Guests:

Kenneth Palmer, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Maine

Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of the Maine Democratic Party

Richard Rosen,, former Republican State Legislator and former Commissioner of the Maine State Department of Administrative and Financial Services

To learn more about this topic:

"The Primary Versus the Caucus," PBS Newshour, 2003

"Primaries v caucuses: a handy primer," Harry J Enten in The Guardian, 2012.

League of Women Voters of Maine, "Study Guide on Primary Elections," 2018.

"Maine switched to a presidential primary in 2020. Here's why parties are still caucusing," Bangor Daily News, February 9, 2020.

"The U.S. Presidential Nominating Process," The Council on Foreign Relations, January, 2020.

What to Know About the Iowa Caucuses, Pew Research Center, January, 2020

Primary Politics: Everything You Need to Know about How America Nominates Its Presidential Candidates 4th Edition, Elaine C. Kamarck, Brookings Institution Press, November, 2018

The all-volunteer team at the League of Women Voters – Downeast who plan and coordinate this series includes: Starr Gilmartin, Maggie Harling, Ann Luther, Maryann Ogonowski, Pam Person, Leah Taylor, Linda Washburn

Maine Currents Special 2/25/20, 4pm: Immigration Law in These Challenging Times

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

Audio recorded by: Matt Murphy

Production assistance: Zoe Sifnakis

“Immigration Law in These Challenging Times”, a talk sponsored by the MDI Racial Equity Working Group, recorded at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor on February 12th. The panelists were Anna Welch, Sam L Cohen Refugee and Human Rights Clinical Professor at the University of Maine School of Law, and Felix Hagenimana, Asylum Outreach Attorney with the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project. The moderator was Dave Feldman, of the MDI Racial Equity Working Group, and faculty member at the College of the Atlantic.

There are 2 more upcoming events in the MDI Racial Equity Working Group’s Winter Speakers Series: On March 18th, Myron Beasley, Associate Professor of American Studies at Bates College will give a presentation on “Dreamers, Dreams and Tall Tales: Malaga and Maine’s ‘Unspoken’ History”. And on April 15th, Abdi Nor Iftin, will speak about his memoir “Call Me American”, based on his childhood in war-torn Mogadishu and his eventual escape. Both events will be held at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor at 7pm. Click here for more information

Power for the People 2/26/20, 4pm: Case study of renewable energy

Producer/Host: Steve Kahl

-Solar photo-voltaics

-Wind turbine

- Solar hot water

Guest: Scott Cowger, co-owner of Maple Hill Bed and Breakfast and Conference Center

Let’s Talk Animals 2/27/20, 4pm: Biosecurity

Producer/Host: Dr. John Hunt

Key Discussion Points

a) Pillars of Biosecurity- Sanitation, isolation, resistance

b) what small, backyard farmers can do

c) wildlife and biosecurity

Guest:

Dr. Anne Lichtenwalner, Director of [University of Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Lab](#)

Maine Currents Special 3/3/20, 4pm: Super Tuesday Call-in

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

Studio Engineer: John Greenman

Part 1: (Approx 6 minutes) “Reducing Jail Populations in Maine”, a workshop to be held in Bangor on 3/28/20. We talk with Doug Dunbar, one of the organizers.

FMI: www.nopenobscotjailexpansion.com

Part 2: Station Manager Matt Murphy and Studio Engineer join me, and we open the phone lines for a Super Tuesday call in- and start an informal radio “exit poll”

Healthy Options 3/4/20, 4pm: Interview with Dr. Miryam Wahrman, author of “The Hand Book: Surviving in the Germ-Filled World”

Host/Producer: Rhonda Feiman

Co-producer: Petra Hall

Program Topic: Effective techniques to reduce exposure to infectious disease due to influenza and the emergence of the coronavirus

Key Discussion Points:

1. What are symptoms of the coronavirus? What are symptoms of the flu?
2. How are viruses and bacteria transmitted from person to person?
3. What are the most important ways for us to protect ourselves?
4. Why is hand washing a powerful way to protect your health? What is the proper way to wash your hands?
5. Should we or shouldn't we be using masks?
6. Why should you keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth?
7. Why should we stay at home if we are ill? What is bioethics and why is this a consideration?
8. What is the five second rule? Can we rely on the five second rule?
9. Why is it important to keep surfaces clean?
10. What is a simple recipe to make your own hand sanitizer?

Guest:

Miryam Wahrman, Professor of Biology at William Paterson University of New Jersey, where she directs a research laboratory in microbiology to study bacteria on environmental surfaces. Professor Wahrman is an expert in Bioethics, a pioneer in Biotechnology education, an award-winning science journalist (publishing over 200 articles on topics in science and health), and has written extensively on biotechnology, genetics and medical ethics. Miryam Wahrman is the author of *The Hand Book: Surviving in a Germ-Filled World*

Change Agents 3/5/20, 4pm: Discrimination and the Maine Human Rights Commission

Producer/Host: Steve Wessler

- Which types of discrimination can the Maine Human Rights Commission work on
- What is the impact of discrimination on it's victims
- This work is hard but has its rewards

Guests:

Amy Snierson, Exec. Dir. Maine Human Rights Commission

Jeff Young, Lawyer who represents people who believe they have been discriminated against

Talk of the Towns 3/11/20, 4pm: Trout Unlimited... how do we protect the habitat that trout love and why does it matter?

Producer/Host: Ron Beard

What is the status of Eastern Brook Trout in North America and in Maine

Population, habitat, ecology, role in sport fishery
What is the life cycle of the brook trout?
Why is Maine so important to the status of brook trout?
What are the best strategies to protect and enhance brook trout populations?
What is the mission of Trout Unlimited and how is it organized?
What led to the creation of the new Downeast Chapter?
What are you most excited about to work on as a Chapter?
Who are your allies and partners in this work (Downeast Fisheries Partnership, Maine Audubon, State and Federal agencies, others?)

Guests:

Robert Packie, President Downeast Trout Unlimited chapter
Terry Young, President Georges River Trout Unlimited chapter
Tammy Packie, Secretary, Downeast Trout Unlimited chapter
Jeff Reardon, National Trout Unlimited, Maine Brook Trout Project Director
Mac McGinley, Trout Unlimited State Council President

Common Ground Radio 3/12/20, 4pm: Organic Food and Farming in Maine: Native Plants in the Landscape

Producer/Host: C.J. Walke

- Definition of “native plants” and clarification of confusing terms
- Benefits to wildlife and pollinators
- Habitat restoration and conservation

Guests:

Heather McCargo, Wild Seed Project, Portland, ME
Cathy Rees, Native Gardens of Blue Hill, Blue Hill, ME
Astrid Bowlby, Honey Petal Plants, Brooks, ME

Camden Conference 2020: Cyber Misinformation and the Press

Broadcast Date: 3-13-20, 4pm

Producer/Host: Jim Campbell

Key Discussion Points:

- Role of digital information dumps in today’s cyberworld
- Threats to the civic structure of the country from “impostor news”
- Ways the Press can more effectively evaluate dumped information, e.g., WikiLeaks dump of Democratic emails in 2016

Guests:

Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor, Annenberg School of Communications
Jeff Jarvis, Professor, Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, City University of New York
David Brancaccio, Host, Marketplace Morning Report, American Public Media

Maine Currents Special 3/17/20, 4pm: Coronavirus: Community Response, Elections

Producer/Host: Amy Browne

This is the Elections 2020 edition of Maine Currents, so we start off with a discussion of how the coronavirus is impacting the campaigns and how it might affect the general election in November. We’ll also look at what Professor Amy Fried calls the “delegate math” following the Maine primaries. Later in the program station manager Matt Murphy pops to

talk about the measures we're taking here at the station to keep everyone safe and the station on the air. We also talk with Cass Clem, founder of a facebook group that's helping community members help each other, and we open the phone lines to hear how listeners are coping with the crisis.

Guests:

Professor Amy Fried is the Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Maine. She also oversees the Maine Policy Scholar Program at UMaine, and has researched and written extensively about public opinion.

Ralph Chapman served 4 terms as the State Representative for Blue Hill and several surrounding towns in Hancock County. He served first as a Democrat, then as an Independent and finally as a Green party member.

WERU Station Mgr Matt Murphy

Cass Clem, founder of the Maine Coronavirus Community Support group that has popped up on facebook, and took off overnight with community members offering help to others, or coming to the page looking for assistance.