

People in Nature: Conservation Photojournalism

A Penobscot River Restoration Trust sponsored Community Photo Workshop

Instructor: Bridget Besaw

September 17 & October 1, 2011

9 am to 5 pm

The legendary Penobscot River once boasted runs of millions of migratory fish, including Atlantic salmon, American shad, river herring, and other species that provided a food base for other fish and wildlife throughout the watershed. Maine literature is rich with stories about human interactions with these once abundant fisheries and the many other benefits the river has provided us. The Penobscot

conservation
photojournalism
is helping to tell the
story of this
innovative project
and documenting
what it means for a
river to be reborn

River Restoration Project is working to restore these resources and the cultural and economic benefits that a free-flowing river offers. As a photographer, what connections can you now observe between the natural landscape of the Penobscot River and the human communities that exist along the river's banks? How do you tell the stories woven throughout the innovative and complex Penobscot River Restoration Project through visual images?

People in Nature: Conservation Photojournalism is a two-day workshop designed to introduce you to the thought process needed to conceptualize, plan, implement and produce conservation photojournalism projects. With the future Penobscot River as a theme to base your work, you will learn how to create compelling visual stories about environmental conservation that engage and motivate people to take action.

Contact Cheryl Daigle, Penobscot River Restoration Trust at 207-232-9969 or cheryl@penobscotriver.org for more information.



The workshop is free and space is limited. Location to be in Brewer and Orono. Participants must work in digital form and have some experience using digital photography editing software. Images resulting from the workshop may be exhibited in public venues, on the Penobscot Trust website, and in publications to further share these visual stories of the Penobscot River to diverse and broad audiences.

FOR THE 2-DAY WORKSHOP

- research a personal topic related to restoration of the river over the course of two weeks between workshop days
- discover how to make great pictures in tough situations and work past your comfort zone
- learn secrets to producing better imagery throughout long-term projects
- on Day 2 of the workshop edit and present your work
- think of yourself not only as photographer, but also as project “producer”
- listen to lectures on how to create conservation photojournalism
- engage the broader public in raising awareness about the Penobscot River Restoration Project through photography



Bridget Besaw tells the story of the human connection to the natural world. The primary inspiration for her work is environmental protection. Bridget's projects have focused on development threats to northern Maine's wilderness, loss of working farmland in New England, restoration of crucial salmon habitat in the North Pacific, threats to wild rivers and arid grasslands in South America, climate change research and prevention in Indonesian forests and sustainable fisheries initiatives throughout the world. Bridget won numerous national press awards for stories on the depletion of natural resources. Her photography has been featured in Newsweek, Forbes, Fortune, Business Week, Smithsonian, National Geographic Adventure and Nature Conservancy Magazine. Bridget has published two books in partnership with environmental organizations: *Wildness Within*, *Wildness Without* and *From the Land*.