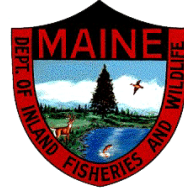
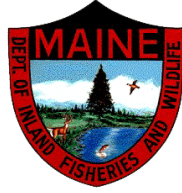




MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

284 State Street, SHS 41
Augusta, Maine 04333



February 2012

Dear WILD Teacher:

Last year, close to 4000 children, teachers and chaperones participated in exciting, enriching and educational programs and guided tours at the **Maine Wildlife Park in Gray** and on **Swan Island in the Kennebec River in Richmond**. We need your business to keep these unique facilities open, so we truly hope to see you this coming Spring and Fall! Remember, register your classes early! Activity Packets can be downloaded from www.mefishwildlife.com.

* Regular Wildlife Program fees for Maine Wildlife Park and Swan Island are \$5 per person for tours and/or wildlife education programs. Fees apply to students, teachers, chaperones and others accompanying the class, and includes general admission to each facility. There are picnic areas with plenty to see and do before and after your scheduled program or tour -- to make the most of your total trip experience.

* **Maine Wildlife Park** programs are held outdoors, under our open-sided pole barn shelter suitable for seating up to 80 children at picnic tables. These programs are held rain or shine, so dress for the weather! The Nature Store is offering 1 FREE PASS for a future park visit to any child, who is part of a group admission, that makes a purchase of \$1 or more! The Snack Shack is full of affordable (many less than \$1) items; and both support the park and its wildlife.

* **Swan Island** programs start with an open boat ride across the river, then an open truck ride 1/4 of the way down the Island to the campground. Programs are held inside the campground boathouse or outdoors, depending on the weather and/or the programs. Island programs may be cancelled in the event of pouring rains, thunder storms, or river flooding; but dressing for the weather is essential. Full island truck tours are an extra \$3/pp.

2012 Maine Wildlife Park Special Offer

Due to a generous bequest specifically for Maine children's admission, we are able to offer **FREE ADMISSION** to the first 758 children signed up for a wildlife education program or tour at the wildlife park only for Spring 2012. Teachers, Parents & Chaperones must pay the regular program group rate admission fee of \$5.00pp.

2012 Swan Island Special Offer

Early Bird Special! \$1 off each admission when a reservation is made for a wildlife program only prior to May 15th!

Please make every effort to be on time for all programs!! We understand that bus schedules vary, but please build in time for slower buses, morning traffic, and finding your way to a new location; better to make an early arrival with enough time to use the rest rooms, than get to the program late!

You can register for all wildlife programs at both facilities, and/or tours of the wildlife park, by calling 207-287-5244. You can register for a Swan Island independent field trip, truck tour or camping by calling the Swan Island Reservation Line directly at 207-547-5322; or by emailing Swan.Island@Maine.gov. All reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you need to cancel once you have registered, please call and let us know so that another class may participate.

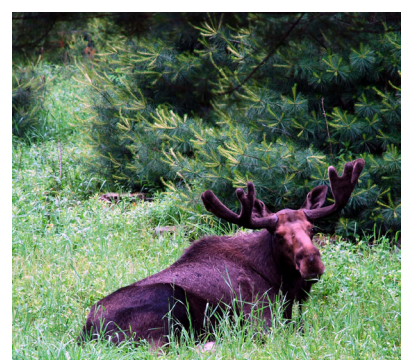
We are looking forward to seeing you and your students at the Maine Wildlife Park and/or Swan Island this year for exciting and informative wildlife and conservation education programming.

Sincerely,
Lisa J. Kane
Natural Science Educator

Swan Island



Maine Wildlife Park





2012 Maine Wildlife Park & Swan Island

Wildlife & Conservation Education Programs

Call 287-5244 to reserve dates and times

\$5.00pp fee for all group programs & tours



MAY 2012

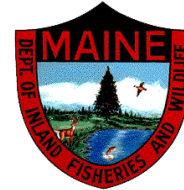
SWAN ISLAND WILDLIFE PARK SWAN ISLAND WILDLIFE PARK

WILDLIFE PARK SUMMER EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Apr 2012	30	1 May Life of the Loon 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	2	3 Predators! 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	4	5 Maine's Big Cats Lynx, Bobcats & the Cougars in their new Exhibits 11am-2pm
6	7	8 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	9	10 Skins and Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	11	12 International Migratory Bird Day 11am-2pm
13	14 Life & Death of a Small Town 10-10:45 - 50 students	15 Introduction to Archery, Demo & Do! 9:30am 25 students 10:30am 25 students 11:30am 25 students	16 Introduction to Archery, Demo & Do! 10:00am 25 students 11:00am 25 students	17 Moose, Deer, Bear Maine's Big Game 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	18	19 Endangered Species Day 11am-2pm
20	21 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 50 students	22 Meet a Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	23 Wetland Metaphors 10-10:45 - 25 students 11-11:45 - 25 students	24 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	25	26 Friends of the Wildlife Park Annual Plant Sale Great Deals on Annuals & Perennials & Support the Park!
27 Friends of the Wildlife Park Annual Plant Sale All Weekend!	28 Holiday NO PROGRAM	29 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	30 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 50 students	31 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	1 Jun	2 Sparks Ark Live Animals and Nuisance Wildlife Solutions 11am-2pm

PDF Calendar by www.pdfcalendar.com

JUNE 2012



SWAN ISLAND WILDLIFE PARK SWAN ISLAND WILDLIFE PARK

3	4 Life & Death of a Small Town 10-10:45 - 50 students	5 Introduction to ATV Safety, Demo & Do! 9:30am 25 students 10:30am 25 students 11:30am 25 students	6 Maine's State Symbols 10-10:45 - 50 students	7 Maine's State Symbols 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	8	9 The Tardy Brothers Amazing Juggling Show 11am-12noon
10	11 Nature Walk on the Beaver Pond Trail 10-10:45 - 25 students 11-11:45 - 25 students	12 Maine's Big Cats 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	13 Maine's Big Cats 10-10:45 - 50 students	14 What's Legal & What's Not? 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	15	16 TBA 11am-2pm
17	18 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 50 students	19 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	20 Maine's Black Bears 10-10:45 - 50 students	21 Meet a Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	22	23 Maine Guides Association Hire a Guide for your next wilderness adventure 11am-2pm

Swan Island Wildlife Programs

Richmond Landing, Kennebec River, Routes 197/24

Maine Wildlife Park Wildlife Programs

Route 26, Gray

All wildlife programs are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, rain or shine, in the pole barn classroom shelter. Please dress for the weather!

Maine Wildlife Park Guided Tours

Guided tours are available Monday through Friday for one group of up to 30 children, 1st grade and up. Reservations are required; call 287-5244 to reserve a tour.

All wildlife programs are on Mondays and Wednesdays. Buses must arrive with students ready to board the ferry to the Island by 9:30 a.m. Students will then ride our Island tour truck to the Camp-ground area. Wildlife Programs will begin promptly at 10:15 a.m. at the Boathouse.

From 11:15am to your departure time, classes can picnic and explore the Island on their own. Departure times for everyone must be prearranged. Bring lunches, snacks & beverages to hold you over until you are back on the mainland.


PLEASE NOTE: The Island is open to you and your students for an Independent Field Trip on Thursdays and Fridays! To make a reservation, contact the Island directly at: 547-5322 or email: Swan.Island@maine.gov



2012 Maine Wildlife Park & Swan Island

SEPTEMBER 2012



	SWAN ISLAND	WILDLIFE PARK	SWAN ISLAND	WILDLIFE PARK		WILDLIFE PARK FALL EVENTS
2	3 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 50 students	4 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	5 Wetland Metaphors 10-10:45 - 25 students 11-11:45 - 25 students	6 Wetland Metaphors 10-10:45 - 25 students 11-11:45 - 25 students	7	8 Rick Charette Concert 11am-12 noon
9	10 Nature Walk on the Beaver Pond Trail 10-10:45 - 25 students 11-11:45 - 25 students	11 Wild Turkeys - They're Back 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	12 Life & Death of a Small Town 10-10:45 - 50 students	13 Predators! 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	14	15
16	17 Creatures of the Night 10-10:45 - 50 students	18 Creatures of the Night 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	19 Endangered & Threatened Species 10-10:45 - 50 students	20 Endangered & Threatened Species 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	21	22
23	24 Life & Death of a Small Town 10-10:45 - 50 students	25 Meet a Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	26 Eagles, Osprey & Owls 10-10:45 - 50 students	27 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	28 	29

PDF Calendar by www.pdfcalendar.com

OCTOBER 2012

	SWAN ISLAND	WILDLIFE PARK	SWAN ISLAND	WILDLIFE PARK		
Sunday 30 Sep 2012	Monday 1 Oct Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 50 students	Tuesday 2 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	Wednesday 3 Animals Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45 - 50 students	Thursday 4 Maine' State Symbols 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	Friday 5	Saturday 6
7	8 Holiday NO PROGRAM	9 Meet a Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	10 Life & Death of a Small Town 10-10:45 - 50 students	11 Birds & their Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	12	13 Boy & Girl Scout Wildlife Badge Day 11am-2pm
14	15	16 Skins and Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	17	18 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	19 HALLOWEENFEST! FRIDAY & SATURDAY! 6-9PM	20
21	22	23 Maine's Black Bears 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	24	25 What's Legal & What's Not? Wildlife Artifacts 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	26	27
28	29	30 Life of the Loon 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	31	1 Nov Wolves & Mountain Lions 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students	2	3

PDF Calendar by www.pdfcalendar.com

A NATURE STORE SPECIAL OFFER!!

The wildlife park nature store has a variety of items for less than \$1. One FREE PASS for a future park visit will be given to any child, who is part of a group admission, that makes a purchase of \$1 or more at the store!

VOLUNTEERS! Do you have any extra time? The wildlife park is always looking for interested volunteers to lead weekday morning tours for school children. If you are interested, please call the park @ 657-4977 x 0 to learn about the next training sessions we will be offering. Retired Teachers are welcomed!!

BE ON TIME!!!

Please make every effort to be on time for all programs and tours! We understand that bus schedules vary, but please build in enough time for slower buses, morning traffic and finding your way to a new location. Better an early arrival, with enough time to use the restrooms, than a late one!!!

PLEASE COUNT YOUR MONEY AND YOUR KIDS!!

Please know the total number of people in your group (teachers, parents, kids) and have the admission/tour fees counted out prior to your arrival. Counting bags of change on the Island dock or at the Park admissions gate only DELAYS YOUR PROGRAM, and others who are waiting to enter.

Wildlife Program Descriptions

Animals' Amazing Adaptations

Maine wildlife exhibits an amazing variety of physical characteristics that enable them to survive and do their jobs within their environment. Learn about Maine habitats, why moose and deer grow antlers, why birds have different shaped bills, why turtles have varied body shapes and appendages, how camouflage benefits those animals that exhibit it, and more!

Eagles, Osprey & Owls

Using mounted specimens of eagles, osprey and owls, we'll discuss the different life histories of these impressive raptors. Why are some more common than others? In what habitats do we find them in Maine? What unique adaptations does each species utilize to capture its prey and survive? Why do some migrate while others stay the winter? How are they & their habitats protected?

Birds and Their Adaptations

Using mounted specimens of songbirds, raptors and waterfowl, we'll identify the many different adaptations birds exhibit to blend into their particular habitats. Looking at color, beaks, feet, feathers, diet and migration habits, we will learn how and where to find a variety of species of birds, and how to enhance certain habitats for 'birdlife', and wildlife in general. Then go test your knowledge as you tour the park.

Creatures of the Night

NEW!

How do birds and mammals do their 'jobs' in the dark of night? Learn about Maine's nocturnal and crepuscular wildlife; and the physical adaptations they exhibit that help them travel, hunt, communicate and avoid people after the sun goes down.

Endangered and Threatened Species

How many animals are endangered or threatened in Maine? Why are they at risk? How does the continuing loss of habitat effect their populations? What is being done to preserve and protect eagles, peregrine falcons, piping plovers and box turtles-even freshwater mussels and burying beetles? Maine's endangered list has changed-bald eagles are off the endangered list, and wolves and cougars are included!

If You Care, Leave Them There

Spring is the time that most baby animals and birds are born. Quite often, people find young wildlife in their backyards and back woods, and don't know what to do. We want to help, but there are many, many do's and don'ts when faced with the dilemma of a baby robin just saved from the cat's jaws, or that young fawn alone in the woods, apparently abandoned. Find out how YOU and your students can best help wildlife in these and many more situations.

Introduction to Archery

NEW!

Bryant Pond 4H Camp and Learning Center provides Archery lessons for all ages, taught by Certified Instructors in a safe and hands on approach. Archery builds self-confidence, self-discipline, responsibility, and leadership skills for all skill levels. Many schools are now incorporating the 4H Shooting Sports Program, including Archery, into their physical education and after school programs as a healthy choice promoting youth development and life skills opportunities. Give your class an opportunity to try this great family sport with safe and excellent instruction! *AGES 10 & UP!*

Introduction to ATV Safety

NEW!

ATV Maine instructors will be on hand to provide an ATV safety overview and then give each child the opportunity to ride a child-sized ATV on a supervised short course. ATV use is growing annually, and this is a great opportunity to expose your classes to the safe and correct way to ride. ATV Maine was organized to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs. *AGES 10 & UP!*

Life and Death of a Small Maine Town (Swan Island ONLY)

Swan Island was originally a town in and of itself, know as Perkins Township. With 6 standing homes dating back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a cemetery with headstones dated 1802-1968, the entire island listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and a legacy of ship building, farming, ice harvesting and more; this is a fascinating look back in time. A wonderful Social Studies field trip!

Life of the Loon

Loons are a common symbol of the wilderness in Maine. Listen to and learn about their natural history, how contaminants like lead and mercury are affecting them, and how lead fishing tackle causes illness and death for many birds in Maine. Kids will learn how they can help protect our loons! Several mounted specimens of loons will be used during this program, as well as audio tapes of loon calls and color photos.

Maine's Big Cats

Maine is home to Canada lynx and bobcats. Rarely seen in the wild, learn about the lifestyles of these 2 elusive species of cat. Although a verifiable photograph or video of a mountain lion has yet to be taken, hundreds of reports of cougars are recorded annually with the Department, and several tracks have been found that could be in the range of a small mountain lion or large bobcat. Wildlife biologists are continually on the lookout for these secretive felines, follow up solid reports in the field, and conduct track surveys each winter. All 3 species are on exhibit at the Park.

Maine's Black Bears

Using skulls, skins, mounts and samples of radio telemetry equipment, we'll help your students take a closer look at the natural history, current research and management of Maine's black bears. Does this state really have the most bears of any east of the Mississippi? Do bears really hibernate? Can they run 35-40 miles per hour? Do they have cubs only every other year? Are their favorite foods really nuts and berries? Are Maine's black bears the biggest in the country? Your students can observe and photograph black bears climbing, swimming and interacting in their large exhibit here.

Maine's Busy Beavers

Beavers are the only animal that can create its own habitat, or place to live. They are abundant in Maine, and have an interesting life cycle. Using mounted specimens, skins, skulls and beaver 'chaw', we will explore the world of the beaver, take a look at the animals' place in US and Maine history, and investigate the status of Maine beaver populations today.

Maine's State Symbols

Did you know that Maine has a state animal, state flower, state insect, state fish, state cat and even a state soil? If you are working on a Maine Studies unit with your students, this program provides a variety of current and background information about the natural resource symbols used to represent Maine to the rest of the country, and the world.

Maine's Native Turtles

Using live and preserved turtle specimens, we'll talk about many of the 10 species of land, aquatic and marine turtles found in Maine. Learn about their natural history, the Maine habitats in which they are found, and some of the threats facing turtles (many are endangered or threatened). Kids will be able to meet live wood and box turtles; and learn how they might be able to help turtles survive in Maine.

Meet a Live Bald Eagle

Two bald eaglets from 2 separate nests in the Sebago region fell or blew out of their nests during the wild and wet weather of spring 2005. Both suffered permanent injuries to their wings, making it impossible for them to be released back into the wild. These birds are now learning to be 'program birds' as a part of live presentations to groups. Come and learn about eagles in Maine, and at the end of the program, meet a five year old eagle, now mature with a white head and tail, as he continues his career greeting and meeting the public.

Nature Walk on the Beaver Pond Trail: (Swan Island ONLY)

Take a walk around the beaver pond on this approximately 1 mile loop. Check out wetlands, duck nesting boxes, songbirds, insects; ID trees, flowers and other plants; roll over old logs to look for salamanders, and whatever else we can find to examine along the trail. Make sure to bring your 5 senses!

Owls and Owl Pellets

Learn about barred, great horned and saw whet owls, where to find them in Maine, some of their unique adaptations, the habitats in which they live, and their interesting production of owl pellets! Pellets are regurgitated fur and bone comprised of the birds' last meal. Each tableful of kids will have the chance to dissect a dried pellet and look for the bones of the mouse the owl last ate! A great subject for studying anatomy and physiology.

Predators!

Why are we so fascinated by predators? Lynx, mink, wolf, mountain lion, loon, eagle and more are all at the top of their food chains and integral parts of the ecology. What happens when predators are eliminated from a food chain? Can wildlife that has been extirpated from an area be reintroduced? How do humans' attitudes towards predators influence their ability to survive within a region? Using a variety of mounted specimens, furs and skulls, learn about a variety of predators and their population status in Maine and the northeast.

Skins and Skulls

The coyote, red and gray fox, bobcat, lynx, fisher, marten, raccoon, skunk, short and long-tailed weasel, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat and opossum are all considered furbearers in the state of Maine. Learn about these animals' natural history, how to determine whether teeth indicate a carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore, to identify and study skulls and skins, about their population status and habitat requirements in the state. Become a wildlife detective at the end of the program when each table of students is given a mystery skull and skin to identify.

Wolves and Mountain Lions

Both of these large predators have been extirpated, or eliminated from Maine. In fact. the last of each species was killed by the late 1800s in Maine. For the last several years, however, dozens of sightings have been reported here; but no verifiable photographs, videos or other evidence has confirmed it. Are they really here? Is there appropriate habitat for them? Could they survive as viable populations? Natural history, current attitudes and wildlife management options will be discussed.

Wetland Metaphors

Using this popular Project WILD Aquatic activity, students will first learn about the benefits and functions of wetland habitats for wildlife and for people, hike around a wetland area, then demonstrate their new knowledge by participating in the hands-on 'WILD' activity.

What's Legal and What's Not? Wildlife Artifacts, Parts and Pieces

Have you ever found a feather, a bird nest, or a deer antler while out wandering in the woods? Were you aware that some of those items may be illegal for you to possess?? There is a tremendous worldwide black market in wildlife parts and pieces; they are used, mostly illegally, for decorations, jewelry, medicines, or as a part of religion and cultural ceremonies. Come and find out what's legal for you to keep, and what's against the law for you to possess. You may be very surprised to learn you are breaking laws enacted to protect wildlife, both in Maine, throughout the US, and the world.

Wild Turkeys -- They're Back!

Wild turkeys were once extirpated, or completely eliminated from Maine; but due to efforts of IFW wildlife biologists, turkeys have made a great comeback and number in the thousands in most regions of the state. In some areas, turkeys have rebounded so well they can be a nuisance to farmers, homeowners and others. Learn about this large game bird, its history in the state, and how it has been successfully restored to its original habitats.