



2009 WILDLIFE PROGRAMS @ MAINE WILDLIFE PARK & SWAN ISLAND



*Call 287-5244 to reserve dates and times. Reservations are first-come, first served.
\$5.00 per person fee for all tours & programs includes teachers, parents, chaperones.*

MAY 2009

SPRING

| Sunday | Swan Island Monday | Maine Wildlife Park Tuesday | Swan Island Wednesday | Maine Wildlife Park Thursday | Friday | Maine Wildlife Park Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | Project Wild Aquatic ¹ @Acadia Park 9am-3pm FMI 288-8822 | Bridges ² Walkathon@ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |
| 3 | 4 NO PROGRAM | 5 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 6 NO PROGRAM | 7 Meet a Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 8 Project Wild Aquatic ⁸ @Scarborough Marsh 9am-3pm FMI 781-2330 | 9 Lucky Catch⁹ Lobster Tours @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |
| 10 | 11 Maine's Big Cats 10-11:00 am 50 students | 12 Maine's Big Cats 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 13 Maine's State Symbols 10-11:00 am 50 students | 14 Maine's State Symbols 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 15 | 16 Sparks Ark @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |
| 17 | 18 Animal's Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45- 50 students | 19 Animal's Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 20 Wetland Metaphors 10-10:45 - 25 students 11-11:45 - 25 students | 21 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 22 Southern Maine ²² Children's Water Festival FMI 781-2330 | 23 Friends Annual Plant Sale @ Maine Wildlife Park thru Monday |
| | 25 HOLIDAY NO PROGRAM | 26 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45- 50 students 11-11:45 - 50 students | 27 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-11:00 am 50 students | 28 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 29 Envirothon Finals ²⁹ @ UMaine Orono | 30 Maine Forest³⁰ Service/Smokey Bear @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |

JUNE 2009

| Sunday | Swan Island Monday | Maine Wildlife Park Tuesday | Swan Island Wednesday | Maine Wildlife Park Thursday | Friday | Maine Wildlife Park Saturday |
|--------|--|---|--|---|--------|--|
| | 1 Birds and Their Adaptations 10-10:45 - 50 students | 2 Birds and Their Adaptations 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 3 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45am 50 students | 4 Meet a Live Bald Eagle 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 5 | 6 Learn About Bats Night Visit @ Maine Wildlife Park 8-10pm |
| 7 | 8 Nature Walk on Beaver Pond Trail 10-11:00 25 students 11-12:00 25 students | 9 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 10 Life of the Loon 10-11:00 am 50 students | 11 Life of the Loon 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 12 | 13 Fly Tying/Casting Trout Unlimited @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |
| | 15 Maine's Black Bears 10-11:00 am 50 students | 16 Maine's Black Bears 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 17 Predators! 10-11:00 am 50 students | 18 Predators! 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 19 | 20 Program TBA @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |
| | 22 | 23 Take your friends and family to the Maine Wildlife Park for a fun | 24 Visit Swan Island this summer to mountain bike, hike, camp. | 25 | 26 | 27 Program TBA @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-2pm |
| | 29 | 30 day with Maine wildlife! | Watch/photo- graph wildlife from the new viewing tower! | www.mefishwildlife.com | | July 4 Meet a Live Bald Eagle @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am, 12noon, 1pm |

2009 Early Bird Special!!



**Sign up for any spring or fall program NOW
and attend for last year's program fees!**

That's \$1.00 off each admission!

**To qualify for this offer, you must call and
register for a Maine Wildlife Park or
Swan Island wildlife program or tour by:**

Friday, April 17, 2009.

Swan Island Wildlife Programs

Richmond Landing, Routes 197/24

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 Campground 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.

If you and your students want a truck tour of the rest of the island, fee is an additional \$3/pp.



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\$5.00 per person fee for all tours & programs includes teachers, parents, chaperones.

SEPTEMBER 2009

FALL

| Sunday | Swan Island Monday | Maine Wildlife Park Tuesday | Swan Island Wednesday | Maine Wildlife Park Thursday | Friday | Maine Wildlife Park Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
|  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Landscape for Wildlife/Skillins Greenhouses @ Maine Wildlife Park |
| 6 Grandparents Day @ Maine Wildlife Park | 7 HOLIDAY | 8 Wolves & Mountain Lions 10:00 - 75 students 11:00 - 75 students | 9 Find A Space & Show Your Face 10-11:00 25 students 11-12:00 25 students | 10 Wetland Metaphors 10-11:00 25 students 11-12:00 25 students | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Eagles, Osprey & Owls 10-10:45 am 50 students | 15 Predators! 10:00 - 75 students 11:00 - 75 students | 16 Predators! 10-11:00 am 50 students | 17 Maine's Native Turtles 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 18 Becoming an Outdoors Woman Fri-Sun. Workshop 287-8069 www.mainebow.com | 19 Rick Charette Concert @ Maine Wildlife Park 11am-noon |
| 20  | 21 Maine's Big Cats 10-11:00 am 50 students | 22 Maine's Big Cats 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 23 Life & Death of a Small Maine Town 10-10:45 am 50 students | 24 Meet a Live Bald Eagle! 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 25  | 26 |
| 29 | 28 Maine's State Symbols 10-11:00 am 50 students | 29 Maine's State Symbols 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 30 Endangered & Threatened 10-11:00 am 50 students | | | |

OCTOBER 2009

| Sunday | Swan Island Monday | Maine Wildlife Park Tuesday | Swan Island Wednesday | Maine Wildlife Park Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | 1 Endangered & Threatened 10:00 - 75 students 11:00 - 75 students | 2 | 3  |
| 4  | 5 Skins & Skulls 10-11:00 am 50 students | 6 Meet a Live Bald Eagle! 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 7 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-11:00 am 50 students | 8 Owls & Owl Pellets 10-10:45 - 50 students 11-11:45 - 50 students | 9 | 10 |
| 11  | 12 HOLIDAY NO PROGRAM | 13 Wetland Metaphors 10-11:00 25 students 11-12:00 25 students | 14 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-11:00 am 50 students | 15 Maine's Busy Beavers 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 16  | 17 |
| 18  | 19 | 20 Animals' Amazing Adaptations 10-10:45- 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 21 | 22 Skins & Skulls 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 23 Halloween Night Visit @ Maine Wildlife Park 6-9pm | 24 |
| 25  | 26 | 27 Wild Turkeys 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 28  | 29 Moose, Deer, Bear Maine's Big Game 10-10:45 - 75 students 11-11:45 - 75 students | 30 | 31 |

Maine Wildlife Park Wildlife Programs

Route 26, Gray

All wildlife programs are on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** 10:00 - 10:45 am. and 11:00-11:45 am.; rain or shine, in the open-sided outdoor classroom shelter. Please dress for the weather!

Maine Wildlife Park Guided Tours:

Due to a **limited** number of volunteer guides, tours are available Monday through Friday from 10:00am-11:30am for one class of up to 30 children, 1st grade and up. Reservations are required; call 287-5244 to reserve a tour.

THE NATURE STORE WILL BE OPEN!

The wildlife park nature store has a variety of items for less than \$1. All proceeds from this store go to help build larger and more attractive wildlife enclosures!

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.

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!!



Wildlife Program Descriptions

A Look Inside a Fish What's a coldwater fish? What's a warmwater fish? What's the difference? What do fish eat, where do they live, how many species do we have in the state? Learn about their external physical adaptations for their lives underwater, then get a chance to inspect a fishes' internal organs. An excellent and unusual demonstration and hands-on activity for your students.

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?

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.

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!

Find a Space and Show Your Face

A District Game Warden will go over important survival information for kids if they ever become lost in the woods. Students will learn how to build a shelter, stay warm, conserve energy, and attract the attention of searchers; all techniques that would help your students survive in the woods if lost. A good lesson to go along with studying Don Fendler's book, *"Lost on a Mountain in Maine"*

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.

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 life-styles 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 at the Maine Wildlife Park.

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 third year eagle as he starts a new 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, hundreds 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 southern and central parts 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.

GUIDED TOURS

SWAN ISLAND: Guided truck tours of the island for school groups are available on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only**. Swan Island is 4 miles long, so to see the whole island a truck tour is necessary. Tours cover human history, natural history of native wildlife, and habitat management for wildlife. Seasonal Conservation Aides conduct the tours. Buses must arrive at the Richmond Landing parking lot by 9:30am. Students will board the ferry to cross the Kennebec River to the Island. There, you will board the truck for your tour. Departure time must be pre-arranged.

To reserve a guided truck tour, please call the Swan Island Reservation Phone @ 547-5322 or email: swan.island@maine.gov.
Island Truck Tour Fees are: \$8/pp, including students, teachers, chaperones, etc.

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK: Due to a limited number of volunteer guides, tours are available only Mondays through Fridays in May, June, September & October, from 10:00am-11:30am for one class, 1st grade and up.
Reservations are required; call 287-5244 to reserve a tour for your class.

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 early than late!!!