



**Belfast Bay  
Watershed  
Coalition**

# Natural Literacy Program Summer/Fall 2019

## **Natural Literacy's Summer/Fall Impact**

Total of 3,646 contact hours with  
479 unique students during  
203 program hours

## **Making Friends with Nature in our Watershed Schools: Highlights**

### **Captain Albert Stevens School**

We dabbled and dove as ducks, excavated as woodpeckers, wrote stories as animals, trees and snowflakes, appreciated the miracle of photosynthesis, held worms and galls and explored the Muck and school trails. We shared stories of our experiences and gave thanks for nature and each other.

*Total of 769 contact hours with 75 unique students during 41 program hours*

### **Nickerson School**

We coined a new word, "empatree," to think of what it is to be a tree through the leaves to the roots and the wonder of seeds. We have adopted trees on the school trail leading down to a stream that feeds the Goose River. We watched and documented fall's changes in the landscape and swelling currents brought by rain. Monarch wings unfolded before our eyes as we released them for their long journey to Mexico. Insects give way to mammals as they prepare for winter.

*Total of 528 contact hours with 46 unique students during 34.5 program hours*

### **Searsport Elementary**

Connecting to the fall season, we explored biodiversity and adaptations of local trees and animals. We were flying geese, calling moose, beautiful birches, mighty oaks and sweet maples. With observational drawing and words, we appreciated fallen leaves, bird pictures and aquatic invertebrates. Many feet walked the school's remarkable forested trail over the stream and circled the trunks of large birch and hemlocks.



*Total of 1,124 contact hours with 156 unique students during 58 program hours*

### **Ames Elementary**

Enthusiasm is sparked by wonder and art, thanks to LEAPS of Imagination artists who have introduced us to galls, tree bark, and birds. School trails are home to the diversity of Maine trees on a varied landscape with lichens and mosses growing on the stumps of the outdoor classroom seats. The St. George River watershed is the context of many learning standards we are exploring this year, including a hike along the Canal Trail below.



*Total of 197 contact hours with 31 unique students during 14 program hours*

### **Troy Howard Middle School**

The entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 110 students in small groups, spent a day in September picking up litter on the entire Belfast shoreline between Northport and Searsport, and enjoying the beauty of the beach at low tide. Two of the groups glued storm drain markers to 100 storm drains near the harbor, to warn people not to throw trash into them. The day was organized and staffed by 12 Natural Literacy volunteers in conjunction with parents and teachers, as part of Maine Coast Week.



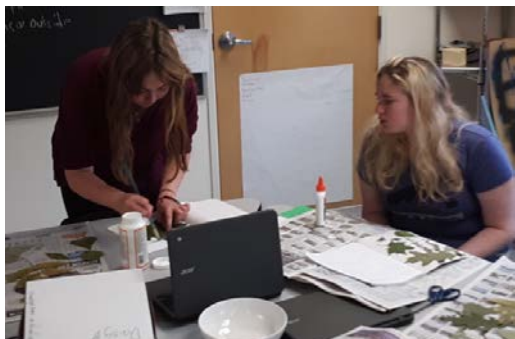
Two classes spent a morning learning the fun of Nature Journaling, to get in the mode of observing natural events outside.

Our volunteers also led two seventh grade classes in “The Great Energy Debate” in November, which compared six sources of energy, pro and con. The debate took three days, giving students time in between to research their energy sources to form stronger, more informed debate rounds. Students followed up by writing papers on energy policy.

*Total of 428 contact hours with 110 unique students during 10 program hours*

## **BCOPE**

Belfast Community Outreach Program Education (BCOPE) is learning biology and culture of the natural world. This fall we made native leaf collections, pressed, labeled, and archived them. We also built a campfire, cooked lunch, and enjoyed Jenni telling Native American legends about nature.



*Total of 27 contact hours with 9 unique students during 3 program hours*

## **WCTC**

The Outdoor Leadership class at Waldo County Tech Center is learning to identify forest trees and wildlife for a GIS mapping project in conjunction with Waldo County Soil and Water. This is part of the process of knowing what species we live with and creating a land use management plan for the WCTC campus.



*Total of 56 contact hours with 4 unique students during 14 program hours*

## **Summer 2019**

One class of summer school students in Searsport worked on an Each One Teach One project, creating a journal, learning about a local species, and identifying it on school trails. They highlighted Chaga, Hawkweed, Red Pine, Lichens, and Cattails. As a grand finale we took a trip to the Belfast Harbor and toured the *American Promise*, an education and research boat devoted to keeping our oceans clean.

“Kids Love Nature” hikes were scheduled for summertime Fridays. We explored Moose Point, The Little River Community Trail, and Searsport Shores.

*56 contact hours with 21 unique kids for 27 hours of summer programs*

## Falling Leaf Fun - After school activities with Friends of Sears Island

We explored the great tree biodiversity at Belfast City Park, learned leaf identification with a game of Steal the Leaf, and created Leaf Mandalas.

*Total of 9 contact hours with 6 unique students during 1.5 program hours*



## Natural Literacy Mission Statement

The Natural Literacy initiative fosters understanding and love for nature in youth through experiential learning opportunities integrating science, math, art and literacy. Our strengths lie in collaborations with schools and the community including a team of volunteers committed to increasing our connections to each other and to our natural world.

Our deep gratitude for making this initiative possible goes to generous individual donors, and to the Ferguson Foundation, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and the Onion Foundation.

