



Natural Literacy Program Making Friends with Nature Fall 2022

Searsport Middle School visits Mosman Park



The BBWC Natural Literacy program met with 26 sixth graders from Searsport District Elementary for the beginning of a study of water, tides, winds, waves, and landforms. The especially high tide on October 27 illustrated one endpoint of the tidal range there. The two classes of students engaged in learning activities about the global water supply, the water cycle, and tidal drivers.

Photo caption: Students checking the narrow beach at high tide.

Ecology Learning Center Hits the Hills to Sea Trail

Two BBWC volunteers guided 23 students from the Ecology Learning Center with their teachers on the Hills to Sea Trail in Unity. It was the perfect way to start the school year, with students getting to know one another and their teachers, and meeting some nature friends along the way.

The Ecology Learning Center is a charter school in Unity which offers all subjects with a focus on ecology. On the perfect early fall day, we hiked 6 miles, saw some huge old trees, waded across Sandy Stream, ate sun butter and jelly sandwiches, and visited Northern Solstice Alpaca Farm, located along the trail, ending at MOFGA.

The Hills to Sea Trail runs 47 miles from Unity to Belfast and was made by volunteers from the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition working with other organizations.



Extended Learning Program (ELP) at Troy Howard Middle School

Each week at Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast, students get to choose an ELP activity for the fun of learning.



BBWC volunteers are involved helping out with three of these mini “courses.”

Two Schools	Number of Students	Number of Teachers	Number of Hours	Student Contact Hours
SDES and THMS	45	4	8	147

Sincere thanks to our funders and generous individuals, Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, Onion Foundation.

Making Friends with Nature FALL 2022 Reflections

Insects with their many names,
Inspire adaptability and fun games.

This Fall has been a great adventure in learning from the Insect Class. The new school year was heralded in by Orthopterans (straight wings) aka Cricket, Grasshopper and Katydid. Coleopterans (sheath wings), the Beetles took the limelight with their beautiful elytra, hardened wings to protect their bodies. Next flew the Lepidopterans (scale wings), Butterflies and Moths with antennae to smell farther and ears to hear better than any other. A lot of group dynamics happened with the Hymenopterans (membrane wings), the Bees, Wasps, and Ants whose fine working social systems and many forms of communication are lessons we can learn from. Wrap it with galls and call it a good season.

It’s been a busy fall for Natural Literacy. We have included more classes than ever and returned to schools we haven’t visited in years. Special thanks go to our friend Lorenzo who kindly shares many of his entomological treasures.

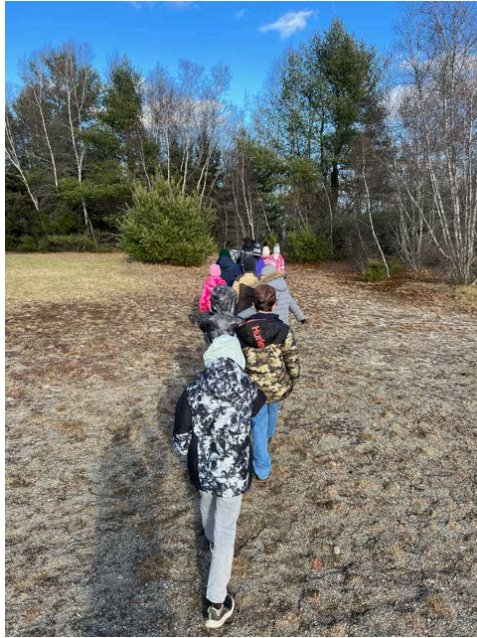
The bottom line:

School	Unique Students	Hours in Forest, Wetlands And Tidal Zone	Student Contact Hours
Ames Elementary	29	6	87
CASS Elementary	134	83	1,264
Searsport Elementary And Middle	141	42	740
Nickerson Elementary	56	20	377
Troy Howard Middle	10	2	20
Ecology Learning Center	23	5	115
Professional Dev. for Teachers	4	4	16

Natural Literacy Fall 2022

Natural Literacy Fall 2022	Unique Students	Hours in the Forest and Wetlands and Tidal Zone	Student Contact Hours
The Bottom Line	397	162	2,619

Ames Elementary School, Searsmont - Grade 4,



Ms. Jenni,

We would like to share some comments with you about our science experiences at Ames School. Below are a few thoughts:

- It was really fun learning about all the different kinds of trees... Hemlock, Tamarack, Birch, White Pine, and Juniper. - A.B.
- We learned all the stages of the insect life cycle: egg, larva, pupa, adult. I loved how you turned this into the Metamorphosis Croquet game. - E.S.
- I really like outside science because we do a lot of activities. My favorite was when we did the moon phases. Using our bodies to act it out helped put a picture in my mind of what it actually looks like in space. - M.M.
- I liked learning new facts about trees that I already knew a lot about, but I never knew a white pine had 5 needles in each tassel. W-H-I-T-E-C-P.
- Learning about the Earth's timeline was interesting. We are 4.6 billion years old! That's REALLY OLD!!! The rope was really long and helped me envision the timeframes. -C.A.
- I liked sitting on the stumps in our outdoor classroom and passing the silkworm cocoons around. I thought it was kind of freaky when they were vibrating in my hands. -M. B
- The shiny butterflies were fascinatingly pretty! I especially liked the Blue Morpho and the Owl Butterflies! -T.M.
- My favorite time was playing Metamorphosis Croquet! It was not only interesting, but it was fun to use the mallet to hit the ball through the wicket. – O.A.

Nickerson Elementary School, Swanville, Grades 3, 4, and 5



**Searsport Elementary and Middle School, Searsport
Grades K, 1, 2, 4, and 6**



**Captain Albert Stevens School, Belfast
Grades K, 1, 2, and 4**



Regional School Unit #71
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Ames and Weymouth Students are Cooperative, Positive, Responsible and Show Grit

Dear Nomination Committee:

This letter is to nominate Jenni Judkins as the Eberhard Thiele Environmental Educator of the year for the 2022-23 school year. Miss Jenni has worked in RSU#71 schools for the past five years, working closely with classroom teachers to design instruction that teaches students not only about their natural surroundings but more importantly about how to be good stewards of their environment. Miss Jenni does so in a way that involves all children, finding ways to engage all students through movement, inquiry, and by making a place for their sense of wonder to flourish.

I have had a number of opportunities to see Jenni at work. She is someone who cares deeply about the environment. This dedication to the environment is reflected in her dedication to children, another realm for which she has a deep appreciation and respect. Even though she only works with children in each class once a week, she gets to know each individual child and figures out ways to reach each one. She is both creative and passionate, which helps her reach all students.

Not only does Miss Jenni understand students but she understands teachers as well. She is a partner who works with each teacher to figure out ways to connect to the learning standards for which they are responsible. She can connect science standards with almost anything in the outdoors, but she can do much more, working to find connections with reading, writing, and social studies. She is holistic in her approach, finding a theme that excites the students, and which stands as the foundation which supports the learning. Her impact on the teachers is illustrated in their own words:

Jenni has opened K/1 minds as well as my own to outdoor learning: the vernal pool, anatomy of insects, moon phases, and taking care of the forest to name a few topics. The children are excited to meet with her every week and anxious to hear and see what they will be learning about that day. Shirley Kelley, K/1

Jenni brings her knowledge and love of the natural world along with a joy for learning to every class. She uses journaling, singing, games, writing, and movement to instill knowledge and love of the environment. Tamra Wilt, grade 5

I love how Jenni weaves songs, stories, and games into her natural literacy lessons. She's taught me the importance of including fun in every lesson.
Lisa Brita, Title I teacher

Thank you for considering Miss Jenni.

Glen D Widmer,
Principal, Ames and Weymouth Schools, RSU #71