



## Damariscotta River Association's School for Field Naturalists

### Group Nature Programs for the Very Young\*

*Our natural history programs are led by a professional environmental educator with more than 20 years experience leading nature programs with people of all ages. Our goal is to enable youth to make their own discoveries about the natural world because engaging in this process is what connects them to nature. We encourage groups to visit our facility but we can also provide some programs at your school/daycare/home.*

**The Heritage Center:** Here on the shores of Great Salt Bay, Maine's first marine protected area, we have an unparalleled teaching resource. The 115-acre preserve surrounding the Heritage Center is an outstanding setting for an outdoor classroom, offering marine and freshwater marshes, fields, forests, and archeological sites.

**Fees:** \$65/hr  
Travel Cost for off-site programs: \$ 0.55/mile  
Scholarships and discounted rates are available.



#### **Programs Available (additional topics available upon request):**

##### **Puddles and Ponds**

Take dip nets to the pond and discover who lives there! Learn about bugs, amphibians and birds of the wetlands.

##### **What Animal Lives Here?**

Search for holes, scat, tracks and other signs animals are all around us.

##### **Muskrats Are Not Rats**

Visit muskrat habitat and see their homes. Learn all about these special rodents.

##### **Birds Have Beaks**

What makes a bird a bird? Go bird watching with your "binoculars."

##### **This Tree is My Home**

Trees are important to us and to other animals. Make your own discoveries about who and what lives in trees.

##### **Bugs and Slugs** (April through October)

What makes a bug a bug and a slug a slug? Discover the world of the very smallest animals.

##### **Let's Peer for Deer!**

All about white-tailed deer, their habits and adaptations. Search for signs of deer activity.

##### **Do Oak Trees Freeze?** (September through November)

Discover how plants and animals all around us prepare for winter.

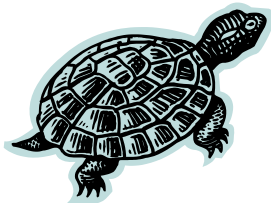
##### **Explore the Shore** (March through November 1)

Explore the shores of Great Salt Bay and find horseshoe crabs, marine worms, bivalves, birds and much more.

#### **A few items to consider when planning your trip to the Damariscotta River Association...**

- Please discuss any special needs your students may have with DRA staff when you make your reservation.
- Prepare your students with pre-visit and post-visit activities/lessons to enhance their learning. Our staff is available to do in-class programs to prepare students for the field-trip and enrich the experience.
- Strongly encourage your students to come dressed appropriately for the weather and wear shoes or boots for walking. We frequently have muddy areas on the trails even if it has not rained recently.
- You are welcome to lead your own activities on our trails, although we appreciate being told of your plans.

**To register or for more information:** Sarah Gladu  
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\* These programs are designed for 2 to 5 year olds. A different list of program options is available for older students.