

Coordinator Notes

Recommended Resource People

Name	Station	Telephone #	Email Address
Cate McEwen	Pond & Marsh Biome	653-9148	cmcewen@saltspring.com
Jean Brouard	Plants – Marsh Biome	653-2335	johnbro@saltspring.com
Deborah Miller David Denning	Pond Biome	537-4797	dmiller@saltspring.com ddenning@saltspring.com
Kathy Reimer	Creek Biome		thesalmonladies@saltspring.com

Relevant Resources

Lakes, Ponds, Streams and Wetlands, DVD by BioMedia Associates

www.ducks.ca/resource/teachers/lesson-plnas/index.html

The Streamkeepers Handbook, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans

The Wetlandkeepers Handbook, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

Pre-Trip Preparation

✧ Contact Ducks Unlimited

Contact DU in January to request program dates. DU needs to know that the program will be run on the EAST side of Ford Lake (access from GARNER ROAD). Ideally, 8 field days plus 1 set-up day, 1 training day, and 3 alternate days in the event of extreme rain over the course of four weeks. At the very least nine days are needed over three weeks. Ducks Unlimited will contact the farmer who leases the land, Mark Hughes. The Program Coordinator should also contact the farmer once the exact times for set-up of the daily program. Coordinator should refer to DU's Ford Lake Access Guidelines (see Manual Appendices).

Ducks Unlimited contacts:

Jeanine Bond, Conservation Programs Specialist

J_Bond@ducks.ca – Phone: 604-592-5009

Mark Hughes, Ford Lake tenant farmer

mahughes@saltspring.com – Phone: 250-653-9296

Invite Robert Bateman (adjacent landowner to Ducks Unlimited property) to speak to the students about stewardship after lunch. Contact Kate Carson or Alex Fischer, Phone: 250-653-4647 – boshkung@saltspring.com

SSI Conservancy Stewards in Training Program

In the Field

Opening Circle

Welcome students to the conservation lands of Ducks Unlimited and set the context. We are in a special place – this area has been protected for its natural features, especially its wetlands. Conserving this area was an initiative of local island residents. The land is now owned by Ducks Unlimited and continues to be managed as an active farm. Can you think of any reasons why it would be important to preserve this natural place?

Have a brief dialogue on respect – for nature, for the area, for the farmer’s animals, for others. Our motto is stay safe, have fun, learn something.

How do we stay safe? (Stay with leader so that you can see and hear them, listen to the boundaries set, stay with a buddy.)

Introduce lay-out for the day and notify students that there will be a mystery guest speaker at lunch. Introduce the group and activity leaders. Over the course of the day, students are to watch for the species for which their group is named. Remind students that they will be walking through a working farm and they must return gates they walk through to their original orientation (i.e. opened or closed). Students gather by their group leader after their leader has read out their names.

A second Circle and orientation is held once students arrive at the Gathering Area which is also the lunch spot. Point out the location for the pit toilet, first aid, and to regroup here at close of day. Students can have a drink or snack and stow their packs. From this site, once into groups again, the groups head out to their respective Activity 1. Some station masters may have already gone on ahead to set up.

Special Guest Speaker at Lunch

Five minutes prior to the speaker’s arrival ask students to put away their lunches and assemble for speaker. Try to keep the speaker to schedule but know that his offering is among the more memorable events of the day for some students. (On the speaker’s last day offer a card and gift for thanks)

Closing Circle

Once all are assembled in a circle, ask the students questions to invoke their connection with the day, for example:

What memory will you take away from the field day? What does water stewardship look like?

If time allows, ask students if they saw the species their group is named after and where they say it.

Remember to show appreciation for sharing the day in nature with everyone.

After students depart, ask the volunteers for their feedback from the day.

Post-trip

Hand out evaluation surveys to students in at least two classes. Any quotes or testimonials offered are useful for writing grant proposals.

Email teachers and ask them about the field day:

- ✧ What elements of the Stewards in Training program did you enjoy or find successful?
- ✧ What are your suggestions for improvement?
- ✧ Ask them for their favourite photos from the day if they or a parent took pictures.

Clean & store equipment.