

Coordinator Notes

Recommended Resource People

Name	Station	Telephone #	Email Address
Cate McEwen	Ford Lake History and Invertebrate Station	653-9148	cmcewen@saltspring.com
Jean Brouard	Plant Identification Station	653-2335	johnbro@saltspring.com
Deborah Miller	Invertebrate Station	537-4797	dmiller@saltspring.com
David Denning			ddenning@saltspring.com
Paul Burke	Nature Journaling	537-0754	bluehorse@saltspring.com
Donald Gunn		653- 4880	

Pre-trip Preparation

The journal pages need to be printed well in advance so that volunteers can cut and fold the journals. Committee members or Conservancy office volunteers often do this job. At this age level, the students glue on the covers and decorate the journals during the pre-trip session.

✧ Contact Ducks Unlimited in January

Ducks Unlimited needs to be contacted to set aside time for the program. They need to know that the program is being run on the WEST side of Ford Lake (access off Fulford-Ganges Road, near MERESIDE ROAD). It would be best to have 8 field days, plus 1 set-up day, 1 training day and 3 alternate days in case of rain, for a total of 13 days over the course of four weeks. At the very least 9 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 with the exact times for set-up and the daily program.

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

Refer to Ducks Unlimited Ford Lake Access Guidelines (see Appendices)

SSI Conservancy Stewards in Training Program

Including Grade 1 Students

Due to classroom composition choices at each school, there will be some classes with Grade 1 and 2 students. It is up to the discretion of the Schools Committee whether to allow these classes to participate. In the past, some teachers have been willing to reconfigure their classes to leave their younger students at school. We have also allowed some classes that have fewer than half Grade 1 students to participate. When younger students are present, the program is slightly modified. Modifications include assistance with reading and writing and allowing more time for games or exploration.

In the Field

Opening Circle

Welcome students to the property. 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, a conservation organization, 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, others, and the farmer’s property (barns, equipment).

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 the location for lunch, the toilet, first aid, and where to regroup at close of day. Introduce the group and activity leaders. Students gather by their group leader after their leader has read out their names. Over the course of the day, students are to watch for the species for which their group is named.

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 wetland 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.