

The Caplan Family Environmental Educational Series at LEA

February

<p>Friday February 12 10 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Citizen Science Animal Tracking:</u> Join LEA for monthly animal monitoring at the Holt Pond Nature Preserve. This effort is part of a long-term monitoring program at the Holt Pond Preserve to confirm and measure animal species' presence and abundance. Participants will learn basic track identification and field research skills, as well as collect meaningful data. Note: The program date has been changed from February 5 (as posted in LEA's fall newsletter) to February 12.</p>
<p>Wednesday February 17 10 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Animal Tracking for Families (school vacation week):</u> If you are looking for something the whole family can do during February vacation, this is the program for you. Animal Tracking for Families will take place at Pondicherry Park and will last approximately 1.5 hours. This program is specifically geared for kids and will introduce them to the fun world of winter animal tracking through guided exploration, games, and hot chocolate.</p>
<p>Friday February 19 10 a.m.</p>	<p><u>On the Path of a Predator (school vacation week):</u> In this program, participants will literally be on the path of a predator for a half-day immersion in animal tracking. Depending on snow conditions and track availability, participants will pick up and follow a predator trail to learn about the ecology of that particular animal and predators in general. This program will last approximately 4 hours and will cover challenging terrain in potentially deep snow conditions. Good physical shape and appropriate winter gear are required. Registration will be limited to 10 participants so sign up early.</p>
<p>Sunday February 28 2 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Pondicherry Park Guided Walk:</u> This walk is held in collaboration with the Bridgton Community Center and will meet at the Center on Depot Street. This will be an easy exploration of the gentle and scenic trails at Pondicherry Park. Call Carmen Lone at 647-3114 for more information.</p>

For March events, see back page

Programs are free for LEA members. For non-members, contributions of \$5 per person for each program are appreciated. These programs are subject to change due to weather and minimum participation. **Please call 647-8580 to register or send an e-mail to bridie@leamaine.org.**

The Caplan Family Environmental Education Series at LEA is made possible through the generous support of Hu and Ray Caplan and their family. Dr. and Mrs. Caplan have been members and directors of LEA since the mid 1970s. Dr. Caplan was the vice president of LEA's Board of Directors from 1978-1980 and president from 1982-1990. Mrs. Caplan was the secretary from 1992-2006. The Caplans recognize the vital importance of education in all aspects of LEA's work in protecting the Lake Region's most important resource and asset: its bodies of water and watersheds.

Maine Milfoil Summit

Friday, February 26, 8:30 a.m.- noon

Join us for the annual Maine Milfoil Summit at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn campus. The summit features presentations on the status of invasive aquatic plants in Maine and New England. Admission is free.

Register at 207-647-8580 or roberta@leamaine.org

The Four Square

World Championship is moving to Bridgton Academy Gym Saturday, February 27, 5-9 p.m.

Competitors are coming from as far away as California and Canada. Plenty of room for spectators! **Register at 647-8580 or email lakes@leamaine.org.**

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March

<p>Friday March 5 10 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Winter Ecology and Heron Rookery Exploration, Bridgton Highlands:</u> Whether you are a regular at the Bridgton Highlands golf course or you have always wanted to check out the beautiful ski and snowshoes trails there, this program promises a new adventure. It will introduce participants to the extensive trail network and the varied habitat in the woods around the golf course, including a visit to one of the biggest inland heron rookeries in the State of Maine (a rookery is a colony of nests). If conditions are not conducive for skiing, the trip will be made on snowshoes.</p>
<p>Friday March 19 10 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Citizen Science Animal Tracking at Holt Pond:</u> Join LEA for monthly animal monitoring at the Holt Pond Nature Preserve. This effort is part of a long-term monitoring program at the Holt Pond Preserve to confirm and measure animal species' presence and abundance. Participants will learn basic track identification and field research skills, as well as collect meaningful data. This program is part of an ongoing effort to track animal presence at Holt Pond.</p>
<p>Monday March 29 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk at Holt Pond:</u> Last year, for the first time ever, LEA offered a full moon walk at the Holt Pond Preserve. Everything went off without a hitch (if you don't count the fact that we did not have enough flashlights and the moon didn't rise until the program was over). So here is: Full Moon Walk, Take Two. Participants will meet at the LEA Lakes Center and participants will carpool to the Holt Pond Preserve. The walk will last approximately 1.5 hours and cover uneven terrain. Warm winter gear is required. Snowshoes and flashlights will be available to borrow or participants can bring their own.</p>
<p>Wednesday March 31 7 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Getting Ready for Big Night:</u> Big Night occurs in mid to late April when the first warm rains of spring spark an explosive amphibian migration. During these yearly treks, spotted salamanders, wood frogs, spring peepers, American toads, green frogs, and other amphibians make their way to vernal pools, or fishless wetlands, where they breed. On Big Night, volunteers go out on local roads to help these intrepid travelers cross, as thousands of amphibians are killed every year as they make their way to their wetland homes. Join LEA for a Big Night Crossing Guard Training to learn about vernal pool species and to join the e-mail list for the actual Big Night. Then, wait for the first rains and join LEA or go out (carefully) on roads in your area, looking for frogs and salamanders that might need a helping hand across the road. It is a magical natural phenomenon and once you experience Big Night, you will spend the rest of the year looking forward to those first warm spring rains.</p>

LEA members attend for free. For non-members, contributions of \$5 per person for each program are appreciated. These programs are subject to change due to weather and minimum participation. **Please call 647-8580 to register or send an e-mail to bridie@leamaine.org.**

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