

Connecting College Students to the Nature of Cape Cod

Offered by Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has the unique capacity to offer college-aged audiences the following:

- * Local knowledge to complement course curriculum
- * Naturalist-led field studies and educational programs
- * Canoe trips and wildlife cruises and tours
- * Involvement in sanctuary-managed monitoring and research projects
- * Facility rental including lab space and dormitory accommodations

LOCATION: Located on the Outer Cape and near the Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet Bay is well-positioned for introductory and advanced studies of coastal and marine biology, wildlife ecology, coastal processes and land use issues, and related subjects. The area is also an inspiring setting for the arts and humanities—including literature of Cape Cod and photography.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS: The sanctuary has over 1,100 acres of salt marsh, sandy beach and tidal flats, coastal heathland and sandplain grasslands (globally endangered natural communities), pine forest and freshwater pond. Wellfleet Bay also features a LEED Platinum-rated “green” nature center, exhibit hall with salt and fresh water aquaria, lab classroom, wet lab, auditorium with ceiling-mounted LCD projector, housing available in the off-season that sleeps 18 people, and tent campground.

STAFF: The senior naturalists and science staff at Wellfleet Bay have advanced background and knowledge in marine and coastal ecosystems, biology, botany, ornithology, geology, human history, and local issues.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE GROUPS: Our staff will work with you to tailor programs and/or facility use to meet your needs. We can serve as your local guide to the Cape Cod landscape, provide unique field trips, involve your students in monitoring projects, and more. Below are a few examples of how we can engage your students during your visit.

Lectures: With illustrated presentations, plant and animal specimens, and other visual aids, our naturalists introduce a wide range of topics including:

Coastal Nesting Birds
Horseshoe Crab Biology
Turtles of the Salt Marsh
Marine Mammals

Salt Marsh and Beach Ecology
Rare Habitats of Cape Cod
Coastal Botany/Wildflowers
Geology of Cape Cod

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Field Walks & Canoe/Kayak Trips: Our naturalists will lead walks both on our Sanctuary and off-site, including the Cape Cod National Seashore. Experience the Sanctuary's tidal flats, salt marshes, forests, and freshwater pond and their associated plants, wildlife and conservation issues; or head to the National Seashore's beech forest, red maple swamp, Atlantic white cedar swamp, dunes, or outer beaches. Topics covered can be general in nature or focused on an area of your interest. Field walks are offered year-round.

Experience the Outer Cape's secluded waterways with a naturalist-led canoe or kayak trip through salt marshes, freshwater kettle ponds, or tidal rivers. We provide the boats, paddles, and life jackets. Group size limited to 10–15 people. Trips offered May through October.

Sanctuary Research & Projects: The Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is involved in a number of wildlife studies, habitat restoration, and ecological management projects which provide an exciting way for your group to experience research techniques. Projects include:

Mark-and-recapture turtle studies
Salt Marsh dieback study

Horseshoe crab census and tagging project
Oyster restoration project

Your class may also use our facility and grounds to conduct your own projects. In the past college groups have come to our sanctuary to study fish biology/physiology and sampling methods, and botanical assemblages of salt marshes and beaches. Our science staff will work with you to see if we can accommodate your research interests.

Wildlife Cruises and Tours: These naturalist-led boat trips and walking tours are off-sanctuary and offer a unique opportunity to experience the wildlife and coastal environments of the Outer Cape. Most trips run April through November except Chatham Seal Cruise which is only offered June–September. North Monomoy and South Beach require wading and walking.

Cape Cod Bay Marine Life Cruise: An otter trawl, scallop drag, and plankton tow are used to sample fish and invertebrates from Wellfleet Harbor. Seal and sea ducks are common in season.

North Monomoy Island and South Beach Tours: Classic barrier island and beach located off Chatham. Sheltering dunes, expansive tidal flats and marsh attract thousands of migrating shorebirds. North Monomoy also features nesting gulls and large concentrations of spawning horseshoe crabs. Seals often rest at the southern tip of South Beach.

Nauset Marsh Cruise: Highlights of this trip to the Outer Cape's largest salt marsh include birds like ospreys and piping plovers, general salt marsh ecology, and a rich cultural history.

Chatham Seal Cruise: Cruise the Chatham coastline where hundreds of gray seals congregate. Great introduction to the natural history, identification, and biology of these marine mammals.

For more information contact Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary's Education Coordinator at 508-349-2615 or wellfleet@massaudubon.org.

For general information about our sanctuary check out our website at www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay