



## OUR PRESENTERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Jane Disney, MDI Biological Laboratory



Keri Kaczor

Environmental Literacy and Workforce  
Development Program Manager,  
Maine Sea Grant



Cathy Lookabaugh

Community Outreach Manager,  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
& Project WILD



Kim Ridley

Children's Book Author & Nature Writer



Hazel Stark,

CEO of Maine Outdoor School,  
Registered Maine Guide



# DEAR TEACHER...

THE CLIMATE EDUCATION EDITION

Friday, March 14, 2025

8:30am–3:30pm

Cobscook Institute, Trescott, ME



This program is proudly hosted by Pembroke Elementary School  
and Island Readers & Writers with support from  
the Maine Department of Education.



## WELCOME & BREAKFAST

8:30–9:00am

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:00AM–10:00AM

Dr. Jane Disney, MDI Biological Laboratory

### SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS

10:00AM–12:00PM

#### **Signs of the Seasons: Nature's Calendar** *with Keri Kaczor*

Explore Maine species, their life cycles, and seasonal changes on your school campus. Phenology (the study of the timing of recurring life cycle events) documents nature's calendar, when birds build their nests, trees bloom, and foliage changes color. Traditional Phenological Knowledge has been practiced by indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Phenology is also a leading indicator of our changing climate, and observing it allows students opportunities for hands-on, outdoor learning experiences that build deeper connections to their local environment. Classroom activities before and after collecting observations support student learning, and are fun STEAM experiences for all ages!

#### **Project WILD Climate & Wildlife Workshop** *with Cathy Lookabaugh*

Project WILD provides award-winning wildlife-based environmental education activities that are hands-on, easy to use, and fun. Workshop participants will be introduced to activities that focus on Maine-specific wildlife and habitat, and will receive innovative, interdisciplinary, and ready-to-use classroom and outdoor activities. Project WILD activities address Maine state and national academic standards. All participants will receive a copy of Project WILD's Climate and Wildlife guide, with activities that target students in grades 6-12. Upper elementary educators, for grades 3-5, will also find a few activities in this collection helpful.

12:00PM–12:45PM

### LUNCH & PRESENTATION

*Dive into an IRW Explore More Book Guide!*



### SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS

12:45PM–2:45PM

#### **Wild Words: Writing About Nature & Science** *with Kim Ridley*

This is a great workshop for teachers who want to engage students in science and writing by bringing nature into the classroom. Nature is a great resource for getting even the most reluctant students excited about writing. We will have fun with a variety of hands-on exercises to share with your students from nature journaling to poetry.

#### **Outdoor Observation Routines** *with Hazel Stark*

Have you ever worried about how to keep a class focused and safe to maximize learning outside year-round, yet hoped to make more real-world connections to the subjects you teach? This workshop will first offer tips on how to manage a group of children outside for learning then move into examples of simple outdoor observation activities and routines to help students build scientific literacy skills right outside school. This workshop is ideal for anyone who wants to safely and easily incorporate outdoor learning to meet their teaching goals.



### WRAP-UP PANEL

2:45pm–3:30pm