



42nd Annual
2025 Project WILD Annual Meeting
Orono, Maine



For more information on speakers, sessions, things to do, or places to eat, scan the code or go to - <https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/project-wild-conference-2025>

Monday, May 19, 2025

When	What	Where	Notes:
9:30am -12:00pm	Leonard's Mill Tour (optional) Sign up requested	Meet at Hotel Ursa and carpool	Contact: Laura Craver-Rogers- 860-377-8179 ~1 mile, easy-mod. dirt trails
2- 4pm	New Coordinator Orientation (optional) Sign up requested	Meet at Hotel Ursa lobby	Contact: Marc LeFebre. All are welcome – anyone wanting a refresher on WILD operations for state programs.
7-10pm	Hospitality Suite	Cafe at Hotel Ursa	

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

When	What	Where	Notes:
8-9am	Registration Breakfast Please add items to the Auction (Auction in Room 3)	Wells Conference Center 131 Munson Rd Orono, Me 04469	Hotel Ursa to conference center (7-10 min walk on paved sidewalks; parking available)
9am	Welcome	Room 1	
9:45-10am	Break		
10-10:45	Keynote: John Bear Mitchell, <i>UM System Office Native American Waiver and Educational Program Coordinator, UM Wabanaki Center Outreach and Student Development Coordinator, Lecturer of Wabanaki Studies and Multicultural Studies</i>	Room 1	Wabanaki Speaker of Water Stories
10:45-11am	Break		
11-12:00	Special Session: Dan McCaw, <i>Fisheries Program Manager for the Penobscot Indian Nation</i>	Room 1	Alewives and Penobscot River Restoration
12- 1pm	Lunch	Room 1/ Atrium	

1-1:15	<p>Special Guests: Judy Camuso, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and AFWA's new president</p> <p>Ron Regan, AFWA Executive Director</p>	Room 1	
1:15 -2:30	<p>Group Session:</p> <p><i>Alewife Scents</i> Alaina Zyhowski, <i>Herring Gut Coastal Science Center Senior Educator</i></p>	Room 1	Role-play as an alewife (a sea-run fish) taking its migratory journey from the ocean to the freshwater lake where it was born. Use your olfactory sense OR sense of touch to navigate upstream by differentiating between essential oil scents OR textures.
2:30- 2:45	Break		
2:45-3:45	<p>Concurrent Sessions (choose one):</p> <p><i>Combating Environmental Misinformation (in a WILD Way!)</i> Sarah Witcher MD Dept of Natural Resources, Biologist/Education Specialist and Katy Gorsuch, MD Dept of Natural Resources, Education Specialist/Biologist</p> <p><i>Building a Network of Green Schools and Community Partners Grounded in Project WILD, WET, and Learning Tree</i> Perry Thomas - KY Assoc Environmental Education, Program Director</p>	<p>Room 1</p> <p>Room 2</p>	<p>Session Descriptions:</p> <p>How do we as educators use the best possible tools to weed through the plethora of environmental misinformation in today's digital world and empower our students to do the same? Join Maryland's WILDest coordinator/facilitator team to discuss!</p> <p>In 2023, KAEE launched the Kentucky Green Schools with >100 schools and recruited a network of 140 community partners who also serve as facilitators of WILD, WET & PLT. Join me to reflect on how EE collaborations catalyze learning.</p>
3:45	Break and snacks Travel to Planetarium		Conf. Center to Planetarium (15 minute walk or can carpool; Parking available)
4:30 -5:30	Planetarium show <i>One Sky</i>	Versant Power Astronomy Center and Jordan Planetarium, University of Maine 167 Rangeley Rd, Orono, ME 04469	
6:00	Dinner on own		

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

When	What	Where	Notes:
7am	Breakfast	Wells Conference Center	Hotel Ursa to conference center (7-10 min walk; parking available)
7:30 am	Meet at the bus! <u>7:45 departure</u>	Wells Conference Center	
9:30 am	Arrive at Acadia National Park	Cadillac Mountain	Great view (and gift shop); short, paved, loop trail
10-12	Nature Center lesson and guided walks with Park Rangers		Short, dirt trails with paved surfaces near building
12-12:30	Lunch	Nature Center	
12:30-4:15	Tour Acadia National Park	Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, Park Loop road & more	Easy to moderate, mostly flat, dirt trails; paved trails near buildings. Stairs at some sites with handrails. Sand Beach has large staircase down to beach.
4:30pm	Bus to Bar Harbor Explore & Dinner on your own	Bar Harbor, Maine	Drop off at drop Agamont Park (across street from shops and restaurants)
7pm	Meet back at the bus	Agamont Park*	* same spot as drop off
8:45pm	Arrive back at Orono	Hotel Ursa	

Thursday, May 22, 2025

When	What	Where	Notes:
6:30-8am	Meet for birdwatching Carpooling to site	Hotel Ursa lobby Birding location:TBA	Contact: Laura Craver-Rogers,860-377-8179 walking trails mostly flat, dirt paths with mild incline
8-9am	Breakfast	Wells Conference Center	
9-11am	Group Session: AFWA Staff - Elena Takaki, <i>Director of Conservation Learning</i> Marc LeFebre, <i>Project WILD Program Manager</i> Kathleen Freeman, <i>Project WILD Program Associate</i>	Wells Conference Center Room 1	New Project WILD Online Course Activities
11-11:15	Break		

11:15 -12	<p>Concurrent Sessions (choose one):</p> <p><i>Resources for Environmental Educators Supporting Rural Youth: A Listening and Brainstorming Session</i> Jessica Leahy, <i>University of Maine Professor</i>, Steph Perkins, <i>Tri County Technical Center, Natural Resource Instructor</i>, Jessica Decke, <i>Tanglewood 4 H Camp/Learning Center, Director</i>, and Mindy Crandall, <i>Oregon State University, Associate Professor</i></p> <p><i>Project W²ONDER: a Win-Win on Designing Environmental Relationships</i> Courtney Hallacher, <i>Virginia Dept of Wildlife Resources, Wildlife Education Coordinator</i></p>	<p>Room 1</p> <p>Room 2</p>	<p>Session Descriptions:</p> <p>This interactive session explores the impact of change in rural areas on youth in resource-dependent communities and the need for workforce-supportive practices and resources for non-formal educators. Participants will have opportunities to share experiences, knowledge, resources, and ideas for future resources.</p> <p>Project W²ONDER stands for a “Win-Win on Designing Environmental Relationships.” Learn how this project brought Virginia community partners together with regional school districts to create district level Environmental Literacy Plans, meeting academic standards of learning and incorporating activities from Projects WILD, WET, and PLT.</p>
12- 1pm	Lunch	Room 1/ Atrium	
1-2:30	<p>Concurrent Sessions (choose one):</p> <p><i>Continuing Collaborations Across Coordinators and Curricula</i> Beth Foley -<i>SC Dept of Natural Resources, Conservation Education Manager</i></p> <p><i>Effective Strategies for Climate Related Educator Workshops</i> Lindsay Webb -<i>New Hampshire Fish & Game, Wildlife Educator</i></p>	<p>Room 1</p> <p>Room 2</p>	<p>Session Descriptions:</p> <p>Join us to share what you are already doing in your state to combine EE efforts across PLT, WET, and WILD. Together, we will generate ideas for forward-thinking strategy, and gather the resources needed to help our EE leaders to chart the way.</p> <p>This session will share how to organize and facilitate impactful climate change education workshops utilizing the model from New Hampshire. Attendees will gain methods on organizing a successful climate change workshop, experience hands-on activities, and receive resources to engage participants in their own state.</p>

2:30-2:45	Break		
2:45-3:45	<p>Concurrent Sessions (choose one):</p> <p><i>Early Childhood - It's Not Just for Little Kids!</i> Hazel Scharosch, <i>Wyoming Project WILD Co-Coordinator</i>, and Lori Keith, <i>Wyoming Project WILD, Steering Committee Member</i></p> <p><i>It's All in the Cards!</i> Kal Mannis, <i>Arizona Science Center, Sr. Director for Rural Engagement</i></p>	<p>Room 1</p> <p>Room 2</p>	<p>Session Descriptions:</p> <p>Join this interactive session to learn how fantastic it is to provide early childhood materials for educators! This workshop will explain the benefits of using Growing Up WILD in the formative years and how vitally important it is when setting the stage for kiddos entering K-12 entities. Using two activities from the guide, you will gain hands-on experiences.</p> <p>Learn more about the tools and set of activities tied to this multidisciplinary deck of cards, developed from an activity created by colleagues at the U of AK. This card deck can be used to lower affective barriers, stimulate civil conversation, and create a foundation for gaining insight into what people think. Everyone attending leaves with a deck and resources.</p>
3:45 - 4:00	Break (and snacks)		
4:00- 4:45	Table topics with AFWA staff	Room 1	Please let us know if you have topics for discussion
4:45	Break		Get ready to dine!
6:00 -8:00	Banquet Dinner Awards Ceremony Auction closes at 7pm	Wells Conference Center Room 1 Room 3	

Friday, May 23, 2025

When	What	Where	Notes:
8-9am	Breakfast	Wells Conference Center	
11am	Check out time for Hotel Ursa		
	Safe Travels and Adventures!		