

Become a

Citizen Scientist

On Sears Island

We need to know what is living here now, to know if we are losing biodiversity in the future.

Sears Island Biodiversity Project: Collection of visitor and volunteer observations of nature - Submit on our website and Inaturalist.

To Learn: Species present over time, all taxa. 2 Ways to submit:

1-Log your animal and plant sightings on our website at

<http://friendsofsearsisland.org/explore-the-island>

-Please submit photos if possible!

2-Join our Inaturalist Project "Animals and Plants of Sears Island" at

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/animals-and-plants-of-sears-island>

*Handy picture guides and species checklists available at

<http://friendsofsearsisland.org/explore-the-island>



FrogWatch: Volunteers follow the FrogWatch protocol in spring to identify frogs and toads present in wetlands.

To Learn: Presence and abundance of frogs and toads and changes over time.

To participate, contact Aleta at greenwayscenter@gmail.com

To learn more, visit <https://www.aza.org/frogwatch>

Additional Citizen Science Opportunities on Sears Island:

National Programs

Nature's Notebook - Study timing of events for various species- a nationwide movement that is active on the Midcoast. Collect data that may provide information about how climate change is affecting nature. BEGINNING SOON

Journey North - Document movement and migration of species (also a phone app), monarch butterflies and others.

Clean Swell - Record trash found along beaches

Ebird - Keep lists of your bird observations, share with others. Many are doing this; Sears Island is now an Ebird Hotspot.

Other science activities on the island:

BIRD WEEK AND OTHER COUNTS

BIOBLTIZES

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC PROJECTS

NATURAL HISTORY SEMINARS

ONGOING FORMAL MONITORING (Volunteers can help)

SEARS ISLAND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT (above)

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Ashley Melquier at outreach@friendsofsearsisland.org

Resources

Friends of Sears Island Website www.friendsofsearsisland.org
Guides and checklists for animals and plants found on Sears Island

Go Botany <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/>
A great site for identifying plants including invasive plants

Inaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
Explore and keep track of nature through user-created nature guides, create your own projects and guides, help with local citizen science

Natures Notebook https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook
Help scientists track seasonal changes in animal and plant life

Ebird <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>
Keep track of birds you see, and explore bird lists for your area

Journey North <https://www.learner.org/jnorth/>
Keep track of migrating monarch butterflies and other species

Clean Swell <https://oceanconservancy.org/blog/2016/05/24/join-the-fight-for-trash-free-seas-with-clean-swell/>
Monitor ocean trash issues

Encyclopedia of Life <http://www.eol.org/>
Explore and understand the world's biodiversity

All About Birds <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>
A fascinating, extensive site for learning about and enjoying birds

Xerces Society <http://xerces.org/>
Learn all about pollinators, bees, butterflies, and other insects

Bumblebee Atlas <http://mainebumblebeeatlas.umf.maine.edu/>
A program to study bumblebee populations and distribution in Maine

Phone Apps

Outsmart Invasives

Imap Invasives

Inaturalist

Merlin Bird

BirdsEye Bird Finding Guide

Audubon Birds of North America

Journey North

Clean Swell