

Outdoor Education 110: Documenting the arrival of spring, 2020.

Rational: *In this unprecedented time, you have the time to see this though at your leisure. Keep at it and enjoy connecting with nature in a new way! Be sure to record your discoveries along the way to be eventually uploaded and hopefully compiled for the 'big picture view' of the onset of spring.*

Location: Document the arrival of spring by first seeking a “near water location” and returning to that very spot at approximately the same time, 3-4 days/ week. Ideally, you should get settled into your location for at least 2 to 3 minutes before noting your observations. Staying a little longer, perhaps seated in a camp chair (what’s your hurry?), may afford you the chance to spot some wildlife.

Documentation of Observations: Be sure to document, in point form journaling style (noting the date, time, temperature, wind direction, precipitation, etc.) the observations you make using sight, sounds and old factory (smells). Use photos focused on the “same framing” to help illustrate the changes in snowpack, water levels, vegetation, etc. for each visit.

Create a Digital Scrapbook: Certainly going the digital route would be the first choice for most, however, creating a hard copy with textured feel could be a nice keep sake for this journey into the full lushness of spring.

Particulars as to where to upload or post will be announced, so save your clips until further notice!

Uploads: When the time comes, be sure to site your location, noting what part of the New Brunswick Watershed your specific location is found. Most of the community regions of our resource based province were settled near major bodies of water that are all fed by smaller tributaries, as they progress toward the ocean. Make reference to anecdotal terms such as “above the Specific Bridge” or “just below a particular landmark, area or road” and any other specifics. Hopefully, we might be able to compile the efforts of our students to piece together a “big picture” look at the onset of Spring from the Northern reaches of Tide Head, New Brunswick down toward the South, in Rexton, NB. The end result could be quite surprising, especially given the vast geographical size of our district!

Opportunity: In the typical hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, we have, for the most part, become disconnected from nature. In these, anything but typical times, where we have been encouraged to slow down. Capitalize on the chance to slow down, reconnect with your surroundings and witness this amazing showcase of nature, the onset of spring! Have fun tuning into nature’s tempo, the pace that drove humanity before our over reliance on all things tech!