



Peconic Baykeeper Spring Family Scavenger Hunt!

Spring is a busy time on our ponds, bays, and waterways! Nature-based scavenger hunts are a great way to connect with the natural world and get outside. Here are a few Baykeeper favorites to look for in and around the Peconic and South Shore Estuaries this spring. Tag us using the hashtag #PBKscavengerhunt so we can share your awesome finds and be sure to give all wildlife plenty of space!

Checklist:

- Osprey
- Grey/Harbor Seal
- River herring (scales count too)
- Spring Peepers (bonus if you can find one!)
- Skunk Cabbage
- Grass Shrimp
- Bay Scallop Shell
- Sea Sponges
- Fiddler Crab
- Diamondback Terrapin
- Marine Debris (pick up and dispose of properly!)
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Peconic Baykeeper Spring Scavenger Hunt Resource Sheet

| | Photo | Background Information |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Osprey |  <p>Photo: Peconic Baykeeper</p> | Osprey (fish hawks) are often seen diving for fish around our harbors bays, and ponds. They can also be seen on nesting platforms throughout Long Island. |
| Grey/Harbor Seal |  <p>Photo: https://www.seadocsociety.org</p> | Grey and harbor seals are common visitors to our waters and seal pups (young) can sometimes be found resting on our beaches. If you spot one, please keep your distance (150')! |
| River Herring |  <p>Photo: https://www.seatuck.org</p> | River Herring are diadromous fish that move from saltwater to freshwater to spawn. Two of Long Island's largest runs are in the Peconic River and Southampton's Alewife Creek. |
| Spring Peepers |  <p>Photo: https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals</p> | Spring peepers are one of the first signs of spring! Often heard but rarely seen, these small woodland tree frogs breed in small ponds and freshwater wetlands where they fill the air with their mating calls. |
| Skunk Cabbage |  <p>Photo: Peconic Baykeeper</p> | Skunk cabbages are one of the first plants to emerge in our wetlands. Named for their pungent odor, these plants can produce their own heat, allowing them to melt through snow! |

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| <p>Grass Shrimp</p> |  <p>Photo: www.chesepeakebay.net</p> | <p>Grass shrimp are common in our bays and harbors where they often congregate on docks and pilings. Almost translucent, they are an important food source for many species of fish.</p> |
| <p>Bay Scallop Shell</p> |  <p>Photo: http://ccesuffolk.org/marine</p> | <p>Bay scallops are an iconic bivalve of estuaries where they are well highly regarded by seafood lovers. They are also admired for their shells and bright blue eyes which detect movement, allowing them to avoid predators.</p> |
| <p>Sea Sponges</p> |  <p>Photo: www.chesepeakebay.net</p> | <p>Sponges are a type of animal and several types can be found in our bays and harbors. Look for them growing on docks and pilings. They can also be found on our shorelines where they often wash up after storms.</p> |
| <p>Fiddler Crab</p> |  <p>Photo: www.chesepeakebay.net</p> | <p>Fiddler crabs are common inhabitants of our marshes where they make burrows above the high tide line. Males can be identified by their unusually large claws which are used to attract mates.</p> |
| <p>Diamondback Terrapin</p> |  <p>Photo: www.wikipedia.org</p> | <p>Diamondback terrapins are typically found in brackish (mixed waters) around our estuaries. These beautiful turtles are almost exclusively found in our harbors.</p> |
| <p>Marine Debris</p> | <p>What did you find?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - - - | <p>Marine debris can come in many forms. What did you find? Where do you think it came from? What is one step you can take to prevent pollution to our waterways?</p> |

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