

# Animal Tracks

## Downeast Lakes Land Trust Online Learning



Casting tracks is an interesting way of making a physical field guide as to what's in your yard. Experienced trackers can tell from these prints a lot of different information beyond just the species and the direction they were headed. Some trackers claim they can tell information like when the last time the animal ate or if they're tired. Sometimes trackers get called into help the police or Search and Rescue find missing persons out in the woods. Casting your own tracks can help kick start your career as an expert tracker!

### Casting Animal Tracks

- ◇ Cut a ring out of PVC, old water bottle, soup can, or any other circular relatively rigid material you have around the house that will accommodate the width of the track.
- ◇ Place the ring over the desired track.
- ◇ Mix water and Plaster-Of-Paris (1 part water to 2 parts plaster—it should be thick like pancake batter).
- ◇ Pour the Plaster-Of-Paris into the PVC ring completely covering the track.
- ◇ Let it set for about an hour.
- ◇ Gently pull the cast out and wrap in a paper towel.
- ◇ Let it dry over night.