



DON'T MISS ANYTHING!
 Facebook: [facebook/NewPondFarm](https://www.facebook.com/NewPondFarm)
 Twitter: [@NewPondFarm](https://twitter.com/newpondfarm)
 Instagram: [instagram.com/newpondfarm](https://www.instagram.com/newpondfarm)
 #newpondfarm

and be sure to add us to your
 Safe Sender's List: info@newpondfarm.org

Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open Lands

SPECIAL EVENTS — *Save the Dates*

Almost, Maine

a romantic comedy by John Cariani

Saturday, February 27, 7-9 pm or

Sunday Matinee, February 28, 3-5 pm

Redding actress and director, Nancy Ponturo, has put together an exciting cast of accomplished actors to perform the series of charming and sometimes quirky vignettes, which comprise John Cariani's popular play, *Almost, Maine*.

The town, Almost, Maine, is so far north it's almost not in the United States and it almost doesn't exist because its townspeople never got around to getting organized...so it's just...Almost. These whimsical stories take place on one clear winter night beneath the twinkling stars. Residents find themselves falling in and out of love in curious ways, and love is lost, found, and confounded.

Our talented cast includes Nancy and Bob Ponturo, Heather and Frank Whaley, Julia Levo, Chet Davino, Colleen Gunning, Phoebe Hart, Jim O'Reilly, and Buster Whaley. Stage Directions by Dorothy Luongo.

Theatre-goers are invited to join the actors after the performance for a champagne toast, homemade desserts, and lively conversation!

Fee: \$10 per member; \$15 per nonmember

AWESOME RAINFOREST REPTILE SHOW

Live Crocodiles, Alligators & Tortoises, Oh My!

Sunday, March 13

Two Shows: Noon-1 pm; 2-3 pm (Wait Listed)

Have you ever wanted to meet and touch a live crocodile or alligator? Spend an unforgettable afternoon with dynamic conservation educator and herpetologist Michael Ralbovsky from Rain Forest Reptiles. Michael travels across the United States introducing students of all ages to the marvels and mysteries of ancient reptiles. He will introduce us to an awesome group of live crocodilians and he will also be bringing a special guest, BERT, NPF's beloved African

Continued on page 2...



Bob and Nancy Ponturo



Frank and Heather Whaley in *Almost, Maine*



Ornithologist Miley Bull returns



Summer Camp Returns!

To register online,
 click on any title or photo
 or call the office
 (203) 938-2117

**All programs and events,
 require reservations
 and prepayment.**

**One week cancellation
 is required for a refund.**

**Park at the
 Learning Center.**

Dress for the outdoors.

REGISTRATION

**Winter, Spring
 2016**



Special Events

...Continued from page 1.

Spurred Tortoise, whom he adopted back in September—we can't wait to see her again! Michael, his wife Joannie, and their trained staff care for over 200 exotic reptiles, they serve as consultants for zoological parks across the country, and they provide animals for television, working with shows on the *Discovery Channel* and the *Animal Planet*, including Jeff Corwin's *Animal Quest*. Michael's love and respect for reptiles are infectious — **come and be amazed! Perfect for all ages!**

*Fee: \$10 per member,
\$15 per nonmember*

OLD FASHIONED EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 19, 11 am

(rain date March 26)



Bundle up for one of the most egg-citing events on the farm! Children from toddlers to teens will "hunt" our beautiful pastures and gardens for hand-dyed eggs. Different areas for each age group, and great prizes for all. Sign up early, space is limited.

For NPF Family Members!
Fee: \$15 per child

EARTH ART

Saturday, May 14, 1-3 pm



Join Artist in Residence, Kris Holm, for an unforgettable afternoon at the farm creating earth friendly artwork using only the elements of nature, our bare hands and imaginations.

Following a discussion of the Earth Art movement and guidelines, several artists will lead small groups out to explore the farm's habitats including the stream and pond, hillside and meadow, marshes and woodlands.

As we gather our materials in a way that doesn't harm the environment, we will discuss the process of creating a beautiful ephemeral work of art by using patterns, color and contrasts. We will use no tools or man-made supplies. Our materials will include only colorful flowers and leaves, soil and stones, twigs, seeds and weeds that the land has to offer that day.

Following completion, we will document our artwork with photographs. Family and friends will be invited to join us at 2:30 for a viewing and delicious homemade refreshments!

*FREE thanks to the
Schroeder Education Fund*

Adult Programs

Birds and Beans

Wednesday, February 10, 10 am:

Feed and Feeders

Wednesday, March 23, 10 am:

Bird Friendly Plantings

Wednesday, April 13, 10 am:

Binocular Workshop



Bird lovers, please join us on these Wednesday mornings for discussions about birding and a cup or two of certified organic, shade-grown, bird friendly Birds & Beans® coffee.

*Free for members,
\$5 per program for nonmembers*

Pysanky Eggs

Sunday, March 6, 10:30 am-12:30 pm



Join talented artist and NPF member, Chanel Dupare, as she shares this traditional Ukrainian craft. Using a wax resist dyeing method you will learn this delicate meditative art of Pysanky and leave with beautiful creations to enhance your home or to present as unique gifts.

*Fee: \$15 per member,
\$20 per nonmember*

Knitting Tea Cozies by the Fire

Tuesdays, March 8 and March 22, 7-9 pm



Choose from a wooly sheep, a bee skep, or a honeybee as you learn to knit a charming tea cozy for your favorite teapot. Experienced knitter Mary Pat Cieri will guide you through the steps in this two-part class. Participants should know how to knit and purl. Needle sizes given at registration. A skein of New Pond Farm wool will be provided.

*Fee: \$30 per member,
\$35 per nonmember*



The Perils of Pollinators — The Honey Bee Status

Thursday, March 10, 7:30-8:30 pm



The key ingredients for the perfect jar of honey: fields of blooming clover and goldenrod, sandy edges of babbling streams, sticky sap seeping from a broken twig, warm sunny days – and one happy, healthy hive of honey bees! But our favorite pollinators are in trouble. Join our resident beekeeper, Ann Murray, to explore the many obstacles honey bees must overcome in their environment, and learn what beekeepers are doing to help our honey bees thrive. You'll go home with a true appreciation of these amazing creatures, and a list of plants to consider adding to your garden to help make life a little easier for the honey bee!

Fee: \$10 per member
\$15 per nonmember

THREE REDDING HISTORY LESSONS WITH RENOWNED HISTORIAN DAN CRUSON

**Redding Before History:
From Glacier to Colonists**
Wednesday, March 23, 7:30-8:30 pm



Fifteen thousand years ago, the area where you are now sitting was covered by an ice sheet over one mile thick. This glacier did not

retreat like those of the mid and far west, but rather it decayed in place. It therefore molded the landscape in a fashion unique to New England and New York. Our consideration of Redding before history begins with how you can read this glacial prehistory as you walk through the town's forests.

The story then turns to the people who entered this area for the first time about 10,500 years ago and began making their mark on the landscape. As time passed, the climate changed, and so did the culture of Connecticut's indigenous people. These changes occurred in several phases as hunter gatherers evolved into intensive foragers and finally to the agriculturists who greeted the first European settlers.

Using slides and artifacts, the succession of inhabitants of this area will be shown along with the impact that they had on Redding.

Fee: \$10 per member,
\$15 per nonmember

The Romance and Nonsense of Stone Walls

Wednesday, April 13, 7:30-8:30 pm



One of the more romantic features of the New England landscape is its ubiquitous stone walls. Constructed over the course of three centuries, these walls were used as boundary markers, barriers to wandering animals, and as a means of dealing with the over abundance of stones left by the glacier which impedes the plow and free growing of pasture grasslands.

These agricultural relics have become treasured parts of modern landscapes, even to the extent that they are being stolen in whole or in part for use elsewhere. They have also become the subject of folklore and some fantastical local history. This presentation will conclude by examining some of these misconceptions such as being built by exploited slave labor, being easily datable by shape and style, and their extreme antiquity having been built by Vikings, Phoenicians, Welsh monks, and Indians who erected them to mark sacred space.

Fee: \$10 per member,
\$15 per nonmember

The Rise and Demise of Local Sheep Raising

Wednesday, April 27, 7:30-8:30 pm



It is widely assumed that sheep raising has always been part of the local agricultural economy, but in fact it played a small part in local farming in the colonial era. It was not until the introduction of Merino sheep in the early years of the 19th century that sheep raising became popular and widespread. The rise of the sheep industry led to the creation of local associations which facilitated a shepherd culture and further promoted wool production. Using a collection of documents discovered in Newtown, Mr. Cruson will present some of the more interesting features of 19th century sheep culture in Fairfield County. He will also trace some of the surprising factors which led to its demise by the first years of the 20th century.

Fee: \$10 per member,
\$15 per nonmember

Helen Hermes Memorial Wildflower Ramble and Brown Bag Lunch

Thursday, April 28, 10:30 am – 12 pm



Each year, in memory of one of our founding Board members, **Helen Hermes**, we take a leisurely stroll down our streamside trail to discover some of her favorite spring ephemerals. Trout Lily, Rue Anemone, Dutchmen's Breeches, Trillium and Spring Beauties will all be here to greet you. Bring your lunch if you'd like!

*FREE thanks to the
Schroeder Education Fund.*

CT Audubon's Miley Bull Returns for Birding and Breakfast

Wednesday, May 11, 7 am-9 am
(rain date May 18)



Miley is one of a kind...a well-known ornithologist, world traveler, raconteur, and Connecticut Audubon Society's Senior Director of Science and Conservation. Don't miss this chance to join Miley for a fascinating morning in search of the Farm's warblers, bluebirds, swallows and other spring residents. A delicious farm breakfast awaits you when you return to the Learning Center.

*Fee: \$10 per member,
\$15 per nonmember*

Flower Essences for Peace and Relaxation

Thursday, May 12, 10 am



An enthusiastic student of ethnobotany, Jennifer Salkin, will give us a brief introduction to flower essences, a meditation with flowers (outdoors weather permitting) and a discussion of flower essences for relaxation. Each participant will leave with an individualized formula!

*Fee: \$10 per member,
\$15 per nonmember*

Become a Beekeeper for a Morning

Saturday, June 4, 10-11 am



Slip into one of our bee suits and join resident beekeeper Ann Murray for an absolutely fascinating morning. You will help to open one of our hives, observe the workers and drones, search for brood, perhaps see the queen, and get a glimpse into the complex and extraordinary workings of the honeybee colony. Space is extremely limited!

NPF MEMBERS ONLY!
\$25 per person

Family Programs

Building Bluebird Boxes

Saturday, February 13, 10:30 am



Come join us and assemble a bluebird box. Once built, participants will be given details of where to place their birdhouses and when to start looking for activity at their box! Bring a hammer and screwdriver.

*Fee: \$15 per member family,
\$20 per nonmember family*

Astronomy Programs

Come join us on Astronomy Hill and see what you have been missing, different constellations, moon views and more!



PLEASE NOTE: on each of these Saturdays a mini lesson of what will be seen that night will be given in the classroom of the Education building 30 minutes prior to start time. This should help our audience, especially the children, better understand what they are to look for when they are out at Astronomy Hill. The mini lesson is included in the fee.

Saturday, February 13, 6:30 pm start time

Be sure to be on time so that you can see the International Space Station pass by, view the Gemini Twins, Taurus the Bull, and Auriga the Charioteer. The moon can be seen so bring your smartphone and weather permitting take a picture through our telescope.

Saturday, March 12, 7:30 pm start time

Jupiter with its atmospheric bands and bright moons take command of the night sky. View Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Draco the Dragon, and Cassiopeia the Queen. The 3-day-old moon will provide some dramatic vistas.

Saturday, April 16, 8:30 pm start time Telescope Clinic and Viewing!

The regular program starts at 8:30 pm, with early instructional time at 8 pm.

If you have a telescope gathering dust in a closet because you don't know how to use it, please bring it along and meet our experts at 7 pm for pointers. Great views of Jupiter and the 9-day-old moon as well as Leo the Lion, Virgo the Virgin, and Bootes the Herdsman

Saturday, May 14, 8:30 pm start time

Look to the spring skies with us. Check our website for details as the day approaches.

Fee per program: \$4 per member (\$16 max. per member family) and \$6 per nonmember (\$24 max. per nonmember family).

Snowshoeing by Moonlight

Saturday, February 20, 6 pm or 7:30 pm



Thanks to our outdoor partner, *LL Bean*, NPF will offer the opportunity for our members to borrow sets of snowshoes (both adult and youth sizes) to be used right here on our property. You may reserve the snowshoes in advance (limited pairs available) or better yet bring your own snowshoes!

MEMBERS ONLY!!

*Fee: \$5 per member,
(\$20 max. per family)*

Backyard Syruping

Saturday, February 27, 11 am



Have you ever wanted to make your own maple syrup? Let Pete Lopuch teach you each step in this sweet process and review the materials needed in backyard production. Dress for the outdoors!

*Fee: \$10 per member family,
\$15 per nonmember family*

Farm Chores

Sunday, March 20 or Saturday, April 16,
2:30 pm start time for both dates

Who drinks milk, who munches on hay and who eats grain? Find out the answers to these questions and more! You will help feed our chickens, sheep, and cows!

MEMBERS ONLY

Fee: \$10 per family

Peeper Patrol!!

Friday, April 8 or Saturday, April 9
7-8:30 pm



Put on your boots and grab your flashlights, we are going looking for amphibians! This annual event is great fun for the whole family. We will search the pond, the marsh and surrounding wetlands for a variety of species. Please wear waterproof boots and be sure to check your flashlight batteries

MEMBERS ONLY!!

Fee: \$15 per family

Sheep Shearing and Fleecy Crafts

Saturday, April 9, 9:30-10:30 am

Come watch our friend Bill Wickson as he carefully shears the ewes in our flock. Each one will be about 8 pounds lighter when Bill is done. Then it's up to the classroom to transform the fleece into a great project.

*Fee: \$10 per member family
\$15 per nonmember family*

Family Fishing at the Pond

Saturday, April 16, 9 am



Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, in a fishing expedition at our pond. Learn how to use a spinning rod and try your hand at catching a resident bass, sunfish or pickerel. We will provide both equipment and bait. Space is limited

*Fee: \$10 per member family
\$15 per nonmember family*

Adopt-A-Hive Program for Families and Adults



If you are interested in learning about beekeeping and the fascinating lives of honeybees, there is no better way than getting hands-on experience with a talented beekeeper.

In this unique hands-on program you will suit up and work right alongside our passionate beekeeper and educator, Ann Murray. Ann is brimming with knowledge about these essential and truly extraordinary pollinators, and soon you will be too!

Between April and October you and Ann will coordinate several monthly visits so you will have an opportunity to see first hand, how your hive progresses through the growing season. You will observe the behaviors and roles of workers, drones and possibly the queen, and you will be amazed at the engineering feats and endless productivity taking place in this superorganism known as the honeybee colony.

This will be a hands-on learning experience that you will never forget! All beekeeping suits and equipment will be loaned to you.

We have room for five Adopt-A-Hive Families each year. ***This special program is only available for those with a New Pond Farm Family Membership.***

Fee: \$300



Family Campout

Saturday, May 14, 6 pm



Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a family campout here at NPF. A fun filled night with great nighttime activities prior to turning in for the night. Then awaken early to join our farmer for morning chores followed by breakfast. Space is limited.

MEMBERS ONLY!

Fee: \$50 per family

Middle School & High School

Pysanky Eggs

Sunday, March 6, 1:30-3:30 pm



Join talented artist and NPF member, Chanel Dupare, as she shares this traditional Ukrainian craft. Using a wax resist dyeing method you will learn this delicate meditative art of Pysanky and leave with beautiful creations to enhance your home or to present as unique gifts.

*Fee: \$15 per member,
\$20 per nonmember*

Introduction to Fly Tying

Saturday, March 12, 10 am



Fly fisherman and veteran instructor, Tim Laughlin, will introduce you to the art of fly tying. Create your own woolly bugger. Equipment and materials provided. Space is limited.

*Fee: \$15 per member,
\$20 per non member*

Introduction to Fly Casting

Saturday, April 2, 1 pm

Let Program Director, Tim Laughlin, introduce you to the wonderful sport of fly fishing. Learn how to cast a fly rod and then practice your casting technique. Equipment is provided. Space is limited.

*Fee: \$8 per member,
\$12 per nonmember*

3-2-1 Blast-Off!

Saturday, May 21, 1-3 pm



Build a rocket, launch it from the pasture and watch it soar 100'-200' overhead and return to Earth! All materials are included.

*Fee: \$20 per member,
\$25 per nonmember*

Elementary School

Kitchen Magician (School's Out)

Thursday, April 21, 1 pm



Can you rubberize an egg? Turn milk into glue? Squeeze an egg into a bottle? Join us for some kitchen magic!

*Fee: \$8 per member,
\$12 per nonmember*

Creating Gifts From Mother Nature for Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 3, 4 pm

Join artist in residence Kris Holm for a creative afternoon. Using materials from nature, create special Tussie-Mussies that are sure to bring a smile from that special someone.



*Fee: \$8 per member,
\$12 per nonmember*

Tadpoles, Dragonflies, Diving Beetles and More!

Wednesday, June 1, 4 pm



Join us for fun by the marsh! Using our strainers and nets we will capture, observe and release many of the fascinating residents who live in our marsh. Let's see who's hopping, swimming, and diving in this watery habitat.

*Fee: \$8 per member,
\$12 per nonmember*

*Calling Young Artists
3rd grade and up!!*
**Discovering Art Forms in
Nature with Celebrated
Artist Kim Day Proctor**
Sunday, June 5 and 12, 1-2:30 pm



This is a special opportunity to work closely with celebrated artist and illustrator Kim Day Proctor. During this two-part program, Kim and our scenic property are guaranteed to inspire young artists! (A list of necessary materials will be provided at registration)

*\$30 per member
\$40 per nonmember*

Birthday Parties!!



Did you know that our staff offers fun and educational birthday parties for NPF Family Members?

Please visit our website for more details:

http://www.newpondfarm.org/birthday_parties

Think Summer!

Summer Shakespeare "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

June 27th - July 16th

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

(longer rehearsals during week #3)

Evening Performances July 14, 15 and 16



"Lord, what fools these mortals be!"

Get ready for forest magic, spirits and spells, tricks and potions, music and mirth, and of course, a happy ending!

This engaging hands-on theatre program with director **Nancy Ponturo** will incorporate acting, dance, and voice. As they prepare for their performances, students will become more familiar with the intricacies of the Shakespearean language, garner a sound knowledge of the text, and get a glimpse into life in Elizabethan times. We stimulate the actors' imaginations through an innovative approach to classical material. "What makes 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' such fun to be a part of is the four interweaving story lines which follow the Royals, the four young lovers, the Fairyland and the amateur acting troupe called the Mechanicals. There are so many interesting characters that are brought to life on-stage," adds Nancy Ponturo.

*Fee: \$625.00 per NPF Family Member,
\$700.00 per nonmember*

*For more information please go to
www.newpondfarm.org*

Summer Camp is Coming Back!

Session I July 11-15

Session II July 25-29

Session III August 8-12



Each year New Pond Farm hosts a unique summer camp that brings together children from the cities of Connecticut with area youngsters. If you have an 8-12 year old who would enjoy making new friends from different backgrounds and becoming a part of the farm family, then New Pond Farm is just the right place! Activities include exploring the woodlands and wetlands, Native American programs, swimming, working with the animals, fun in the gardens, cooking, hiking, outdoor games, crafts and more.

Campers must be FAMILY MEMBERS.

Fee: \$550 includes snacks, lunch, crafts materials, and t-shirt.



We're Open to Members



Our members are welcomed to enjoy the property; winter hours are from 10am to 4pm. We invite you to hike the trails, cross country ski/snow shoe around the pastures, or sled down Astronomy Hill. **NO SKATING!!** Please park at the Indoor Learning Center and walk out to the pastures. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent. Please call to let us know you are coming, we ask that you leave your dogs at home.

Membership...the perfect gift!

The majority of our operating budget is dependent on memberships, program revenues and private grants.

We welcome your support! Please make your contribution payable to New Pond Farm Education Center and send it to:
New Pond Farm Education Center; Box 116;
West Redding, CT 06896.

To have a gift card mailed, please call the office!

As members you will have the opportunity to:

- Hike, cross country ski and explore on our spectacular private 102-acre property
- Receive discounts on programs
- Enjoy many Members-Only programs — like Junior Staff, Summer Camp, Pancake Breakfasts, Caroling with the Animals and evening amphibian programs
- Receive seasonal Newsletters and Calendars in advance so that you may be first to sign up for our classes
- Participate in educational and unique birthday parties for your children
- Enjoy an ongoing series of adult workshops and outdoor activities throughout the year
- Discover the fascinating plant and animal communities of the Redding area in our hands-on classes
- Support one of the last working farms in Fairfield County — celebrating our connection to the land and the origins of our food
- Support environmental programs that plant the seeds of conservation, encouraging students of all ages to become responsible stewards of the land
- Support a summer camp that brings together children from the inner city and children from surrounding areas in a personal atmosphere, fostering new understandings and friendships

Membership Categories:

☐ Individual Adult	\$50	☐ Supporting	\$100	☐ Patron	\$500
☐ Family	\$75	☐ Sustaining	\$300	☐ Sponsor	\$1,000
				☐ Guardian	\$5,000

Name(s) of family members: _____

Mailing Address Information:

Name: _____

Street: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

New Pond Farm Education Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public foundation. Memberships are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.



Box 116 • 101 Marchant Road • West Redding, CT 06896

