

35 Years of Environmental Education



# New Pond Farm Education Center

## WINTER & SPRING 2020

At New Pond Farm, you can expect a season filled with exploration, discovery, and authentic exposure! Join us in the fresh air and experience close encounters with animals and plants, and increase your knowledge of the natural world!

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration & Prepayment required for all programs
- To register please visit [newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org) or call the office at (203) 938-2117
- One-week cancellation required for a refund
- Please park at the Learning Center and dress for the outdoors

### 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](https://www.instagram.com/newpondfarm)

Be sure to add us to your Safe Sender's List:  
[info@newpondfarm.org](mailto:info@newpondfarm.org)

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

New Pond Farm Education Center

presents

### The 39 Steps: A Live Radio Play by Joe Landry

Saturday, February 22nd, 7 PM - 9 PM

(Snow Date: Sunday, February 23rd, 2 PM)

Inspired by Alfred Hitchcock's classic tale, this romantic thriller will be performed as a live period radio play. Richard Hannay is visiting 1930s London when he meets Annabella Smith, who is on the run from foreign agents. Annabella is murdered and Hannay must then try to break the spy ring and prove his innocence while discovering the truth about The 39 Steps. Directed by Nancy Ponturo and starring talented actors Fred Newman, Nancy & Bob Ponturo, Martin Robinson & Annie Evans, and Don Striano. Music by David Morgan.

Located at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road, Redding

Seating is limited, please reserve your seats. \$50 per member, \$60 per non-member



### Old Fashioned Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th, 11 AM

(Rain Date: Saturday, April 11th)

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! Please bring a basket and dress for an early spring (aka muddy) farm.

For NPF Family Members!

Please sign up early, space is limited.

\$15 per child

*Just in time for Earth Day!*

### A Discussion about Climate Change — No Politics, Just the Facts!

Thursday, April 16th, 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Climate Action is the international theme of Earth Day's 50th anniversary in April. We are thrilled to be welcoming inspiring speaker Tom Socha. Tom trained with Al Gore to become a Climate Reality Leader. He will talk about the causes and impacts of climate change and share what individuals, groups and entire communities are doing to address this worldwide problem. Tom is also an active member of the Sustainable Weston Committee. Please join us!

FREE — Thanks to the Schroeder Education Fund

## SAVE THE DATE – IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!!

Sunday, June 7th, 10 AM - 2 PM

Bring your family and friends to the Education Center's 35th Birthday Party!! It will be an exciting day of outdoor fun for the whole family!

There will be Scavenger Hunts on one of our freshly groomed trails (thanks to the Redding Scouts),

hands-on explorations of our wetlands, a peek at the life of the Eastern Woodland Indians in our wigwam and longhouse,

music in the meadow with popular musician Amy Cabot, delicious ice cream, and much, much more! More details will be coming soon!!

On every acre, in all we do, we plant seeds for a lifetime of engagement with the natural world.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Knitting & Spinning

**Sundays, February 2nd, March 1st, and April 5th, 12 PM - 3 PM**

*(If the weather is bad, we will cancel)*

Bring your knitting or spinning projects and enjoy a relaxing afternoon with members of the *Nutmeg Western CT Spinners Guild*. They will coach you on your knitting challenges and invite you to try your hand at their spinning wheels.

*This program is FREE, but donations supporting our fleecy flock are welcome and beautiful skeins of our yarn will be for sale.*



### Pruning and Practices: A Hands-On Workshop

**Saturday, February 8th, 9 AM - 12 PM**

Join Claire Matzke and Lenny Marcari for Pruning 101! After an enjoyable morning of instruction in our Learning Center, you will head outside for a hands-on lesson. Claire is a graduate of the *UConn Master Gardener Program* and tends our beautiful perennial beds and herb gardens. Lenny has been a state licensed Arborist for 20 years, a member of the *CT Tree Protective Association*, and he is currently the Gardens and Grounds Manager at the *Bartlett Arboretum* in Stamford. Bring your pruners and your loppers and learn from the pros the why, when and how to properly prune your trees and shrubs!

*\$20 per member, \$25 per non-member*



### Pysanky Egg Workshop

**Saturday, April 4th, 2 PM - 4 PM**

We are so excited that talented artist, Chanel Dupare, will be returning to teach the traditional Ukrainian art of Pysanky. Using a wax-resist dyeing method you will learn this delicate meditative craft and leave with a beautiful creation for your home or to share as a special gift.

*\$15 per member, \$20 per non-member*

### Butterflies In My Backyard!

**Sunday, April 19th, 2 PM - 3 PM**

Spend a fascinating afternoon with Redding's own enthusiastic lepidopterist, Victor DeMasi, who will share his engaging presentation on butterflies and their important role in our environment. Learn some fascinating life histories of both rare and common species that he has observed in his 40 years of stewardship. He will also bring along an impressive display of museum quality specimens. Victor is a curatorial affiliate at the *Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History* in New Haven, CT. He has also contributed articles to scientific publications and his mark-recapture study with Swallowtail butterflies was recently cited in the book "Swallowtails of the Americas".

*We are proud to be a part of  
The Redding Pollinator Pathway*

*\$10 per member, \$15 per non-member*



### Wildflower Ramble & Brown Bag Lunch HAPPY EARTH DAY!!

**Wednesday, April 22th, 11 AM - 12:30 PM**

Each year in memory of one of our founding Board members, Helen Hermes, we take a leisurely stroll down our stream-side trail to discover some of her favorite spring ephemerals. Trout Lily, Rue Anemone, Dutchman's Breeches, Trillium, and Spring Beauties will all be here to greet you! Bring a brown bag lunch and share happy conversations on our balcony as you enjoy the weeping cherry blossoms and views into our early spring pastures.

*FREE — Thanks to the Schroeder Education Fund*

### What Do You Know About Ticks?

**Thursday, April 23rd, 7 PM - 8 PM**

Professor Dr. Neeta Pardanani Connolly, Director of the Tickborne Disease Prevention Laboratory at *Western Connecticut State University*, will help us to better understand the world of ticks, their habits and habitats, as well as how we can safely coexist. This is surely a current topic that needs more understanding and information for people that live in CT.

*\$10 per member, \$15 per non-member*



### Birding & Breakfast with Miley Bull

**Wednesday, May 6th, 7 AM - 9 AM**

Miley Bull is a one of kind treasure, a well-known ornithologist, a world traveler, a raconteur, and *CT Audubon Society's* Senior Director of Science and Conservation. Please join Miley for a fascinating morning in search of spring warblers, bluebirds, swallows, and other feathered residents. Breakfast treats await when you return to the Learning Center.

*\$10 per member, \$15 per non-member*

### Getting Down to Earth with Garden Chemistry

**Thursday, May 7th, 7 PM - 9 PM**

Advanced Master Gardener, Master Composter, and engaging speaker, Dr. Thomas MacGregor, will help you to understand the role chemistry plays in your garden from spring soil preparation through autumn harvest. In the last seven years Tom has researched, documented, and compiled a notebook full of practical advice, tricks, tips, and interesting facts consistent with his chemistry training. This program is guaranteed to provide insight on how to solve your gardening problems!

*\$15 per member, \$20 per non-member*

### More Plants Please... Plant Based Cooking

**Thursday, May 14th, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

Join guest instructor Celeste Cobb and learn what it takes to make a delicious wholly plant based meal. She will show you how easy it can be to shop, prepare and serve a nutritionally rich meal your entire family will enjoy. Celeste will prepare a 3-course tasting for you, answer questions, dispel misconceptions, and help you to discover the wealth of resources and products available to those interested in plant based cooking!

*Registration is required, space is limited.*

*\$20 per member, \$25 per non-member*



## FAMILY PROGRAMS



### Backyard Syruping

**Saturday, February 1st, 1 PM - 2:30 PM**

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

*\$10 per member family, \$15 per non-member family*



### Winter/Spring Astronomy

**Saturdays, February 1st, 6 PM,  
February 29th, 7 PM, March 28th, 8:15 PM  
& April 25th, 8:45 PM**

Join our team of astronomy volunteers as we gaze through the telescopes at the Moon, Saturn, deep space objects, and seasonal constellations.

Families are invited to a special preview in the Learning Center classroom a half-hour before the official start. This will give participants, especially children, a better understanding of what they will be viewing out on the hill. Please dress for the outdoors, bring a flashlight for the walk to and from the observatory, and binoculars if you have them.

*Each Program:*

*\$4 per member (\$16 max. per member family)*

*\$6 per non-member (\$24 max. per non-member family)*



### Calling All Citizen Scientists! Great Backyard Bird Count Training Class

**Saturday, February 8th, 2 PM - 3 PM**

Learn how to get involved in an annual citizen science project where you identify and count the number of birds in your backyard anytime between February 15-18. We will share books and apps that will help you with bird identification. We will also walk you through the steps on how to enter the data on the citizen science website. Your data will help researchers at the *National Audubon Society*, the *Cornell Lab of Ornithology*, and other conservation organizations!

*FREE*



### Moonlight Snowshoeing

**Saturday, February 8th, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

*(weather permitting)*

Thanks to our outdoor partner, *L.L. Bean*, we 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 so please call ahead) or better yet bring your own.

**Members only!**

*\$10 per member (\$40 max. per family)*



### Build a Bluebird Box For Your Backyard

**Saturday, February 22nd, 10 AM - 11:30 AM**

Please join us and assemble a bluebird box (one per family). Once built, participants will be given details on where to place it and when to start looking for activity from one of our most beautiful songsters. *Please bring a hammer and a Phillips-head screwdriver, materials will be provided.*

**Space is limited.**

*\$20 per member family, \$25 per non-member family*



### Annual Maple Syruping & Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, March 7th**

**Seating times: 8:30, 9, 9:30, & 10 AM**

Celebrate a delicious New England tradition! Start the morning with a homemade breakfast of bacon and pancakes topped with fresh berries and our own maple syrup, then bundle up and head down to our Sugar Shed to watch the farmers as they boil down the next batch of sap from our sugar maple trees.

**Reservations are required, seating is limited.**

**Members only!** \$10 per person, children 3 and under are free (\$30 max. per member family)

### Important Visitation Information for Members

Our members are welcome to enjoy the property; winter hours are from 10 AM to 4 PM. **Anyone under 18-years-old must be accompanied by a parent.** We invite you to hike the trails, cross-country ski/snowshoe around the pastures, or sled down Astronomy Hill. **NO SKATING!!**

Parking available at the Learning Center. **Please call ahead to let us know you are coming, and we also ask that you leave your dogs at home.**

### Calling All Volunteers!

Join in on the fun! We would love helping hands for:

#### **A Run for the Cows**

Saturday, May 2nd, pre-registration, and Sunday, May 3rd, Race Day! This is a great one for early-bird volunteers

#### **After school help in our Wildlife Room**

For all volunteer events, please contact Mary Lee Pampel for more information: [marylee@newpondfarm.org](mailto:marylee@newpondfarm.org)

## Family Farm Chores

**Sunday, April 5th or**

**Saturday, May 9th, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

Dress for the farm and get ready to help farmers Mike and Rachel with some daily farm chores. Collect eggs from the chicken coop, meet our sheep and cows, watch the milking process, and enjoy spring on the farm.

**Members only!** \$10 per family



## Ribbit, Ribbit — It's Time for Our Annual Peeper Patrol

**Friday, April 24th, 7 PM - 8:30 PM**

Put on your rubber boots and grab a flashlight, we are going out to look for amphibians!

This annual event is great fun for the whole family. We will search the edges of our marsh and surrounding wetlands for spring peepers, green frogs, pickerel frogs, and more! *Please be sure to check your flashlight batteries before coming.*

**Members only!** \$15 per family



## Family Campout

**Friday, May 15th, 6 PM**

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a family campout. Our fun filled evening includes a night hike, roasting marshmallows over the campfire, viewing constellations, and a celebration of our nocturnal neighbors prior to turning in for the night. Wake up early and join our farmer for morning chores, followed by a simple breakfast.

**Members only! Space is limited.**

\$50 per family

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PROGRAMS



## After School Animal Care Workshop

**Tuesdays, February 18th or**

**March 3rd, 4 PM - 4:45 PM**

Join a staff member for an introduction on how to properly feed our amphibians and reptiles. Come see if you might be interested in continuing with this after-school feeding opportunity. Our beautiful and gentle bevy of beasts can't wait to meet you!

**Registration required, space is limited.**

**FREE**

## 3-D Origami Stars: Fun with paper!

**Thursday, March 12th, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Using a colorful assortment of papers, bring your creativity to life as you master this traditional craft! Board member Marion Hichwa will guide you through step by step instructions and you will be amazed at your beautiful year-round ornament!

\$10 per member, \$15 per non-member

## Pysanky Egg Workshop — for students aged 13+

**Saturday, April 4th, 2 PM - 4 PM**

We are so excited that talented artist, Chanel Dupare, will be returning to teach the traditional Ukrainian art of Pysanky. Using a wax-resist dyeing method you will learn this delicate meditative craft and leave with a beautiful creation for your home or to share as a special gift.

\$15 per member, \$20 per non-member

## Fly Casting Class

**Saturday, April 18th, 2 PM - 3:30 PM**

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a fun afternoon of learning how to cast a fly fishing rod. This sport dates back to the 2nd century and is still going strong in 2020! Learn the basics and they will be with you for a lifetime.

*All equipment will be provided.*

\$10 per member, \$15 per non-member

## ADVENTURE BIRTHDAY PARTIES



## Naturalists, Explorers, & Adventurers!

On our beautiful 102-acres we have unique resources such as diverse habitat, 19th Century barns, a maple syruping shed, and an authentically recreated Native American encampment complete with a thatched longhouse and barked wigwag; the pastures and barns are home for a variety of livestock. However, our best resource is our enthusiastic and experienced teaching staff. They adjust our programs to fit your child's age and learning abilities. All of our programs are hands-on and active, keeping your child and his or her guests involved throughout the program.

*To learn more about our Adventure Birthday Parties or to check availability, please call us at 203-938-2117 or email Gwen Denny at [gwen@newpondfarm.org](mailto:gwen@newpondfarm.org).*



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT PROGRAMS



### Animal Tracks & Traces!

**Tuesday, February 25th, 4 PM - 5:30 PM**

Learn how to be a wildlife detective! Head outside and discover clues left behind by our neighboring birds and mammals, then come back into the Learning Center to make a plaster cast of your favorite tracks to take home.

*\$10 per member child, \$15 per non-member child*

### Make a Hummingbird Feeder

**Tuesday, March 10th, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Join talented artist, Kris Holm, and create a working hummingbird feeder that you can take home to attract these amazing jewels of the air. Directions on the proper placement of the feeder and the simple syrup recipe will be provided.

*\$12 per member child, \$18 per non-member child*



### Easter Egg Trees

**Tuesday, April 7th, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Starting with pre-potted magnolia branches, create your own "tree" as you decorate beautiful hand-blown eggs. This is a perfect centerpiece for your spring table.

*\$12 per member child, \$18 per non-member child*

### Fur & Feathers

**Saturday, May 30th, 10 AM - 11 AM**

It's all about survival! Discover an amazing variety of physical and behavioral adaptations that allow our local mammals and birds to live successfully in our environment.

*\$10 per member child, \$15 per non-member child*

## 3, 4, & 5 YEAR OLD PROGRAMS



### Toddler Nature Hikes

**Wednesday, February 19th or 26th,  
10 AM - 10:45 AM** (Weather permitting)

Bundle up and join our Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a nature discovery walk. Tracks and traces are all around us, let's have fun and learn more about our wildlife in winter! Children must be accompanied by an adult and dressed for the outdoors.

*FREE for member children, \$5 per non-member child*



### Calling All Snowbird Snowshoe-ers

Dear NPF Members,

Thanks to the generosity of our outdoor partner, L.L. Bean, we have a few pairs of snowshoes (adult and children's sizes) for our members to sign-out and borrow while on the property. If you'd like to learn more about this or to be on our "Call List" for impromptu snowshoeing, please email our Program Director Tim Laughlin at [tim@newpondfarm.org](mailto:tim@newpondfarm.org).

## ALL NEW SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Registration  
will open  
Feb. 15th*



### Preschool Camp for 4-5 Year Olds

**Weeks: June 15th-19th or June 22nd-26th,  
9:30 AM - 12 PM**

We are looking forward to welcoming your budding naturalists for mornings of discovery and fun! Hands-on activities will include explorations in our woodlands, stream and marsh, fun with our friendly program animals, a morning with the farm animals, and nature crafts.

*Each week is \$185 per member child and \$260 per non-member child  
(fee includes daily snacks and a camp t-shirt.)*



### Summer Camp for 6 & 7 Year Olds and 8 & 9 Year Olds

**Weeks: July 6th-10th, July 13th-17th, or July 20th-24th,  
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

During five action-packed days in July, 6-9 year-olds will become beekeepers, farmers, naturalists, vegetable gardeners, chefs, artists, treasure hunters, and scientists!

Get outside and have fun while you form friendships with campers from surrounding towns and cities, swim in our crystal-clear pool, explore our 102-acres of woodlands and wetlands, and enjoy loads of games and activities. For an additional cost of \$50 there will be optional Friday evening camp-outs for individual campers accompanied by a parent.

*Each week is \$395 per member and \$470 per non-members  
(Fee includes daily snacks and lunch, and a camp t-shirt.)*



# New Pond Farm Education Center

Box 116 • 101 Marchant Road  
West Redding, CT 06896

## Visit Our Staff At These Community Events

Wilton's Zero Waste Faire

Sunday, March 29th

Earth Day Celebration, Bethel

Saturday, April 25th

Earth Day Celebration, Redding

Saturday, April 25th

Redding Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9th

Mark Twain Library's Frog Frolic

Saturday, May 16th

Dear Renewing  
or Prospective Member,

For over 35 years New Pond Farm Education Center has provided individuals, families and organizations with ways to explore their passions for the natural world.

Thanks to actress Carmen Mathews' vision, New Pond Farm provides a myriad of opportunities for our members, donors, volunteers, and sponsoring entities. Her dedication to programs for urban youth, the environment, agriculture and the arts paved the way for the hands-on educational experiences that take place on our glorious 102-acre property.

Thank you for helping to make all of this possible. I look forward to seeing you soon!

With warm regards,

Ann Taylor, Executive Director  
ann@newpondfarm.org  
(203) 938-2117

New Pond Farm is a 501(c)(3) organization eligible for corporate matching grants. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## NEW POND FARM EDUCATION CENTER

*On every acre, in all we do, we plant seeds for a lifetime of active engagement with the natural world.*

**The Environment • Local History • Astronomy • Agriculture • The Arts**

As an alternative to annual memberships, we offer sustaining memberships which allow support of the farm on a monthly basis at a level of your choosing. You may also sign up online at [newpondfarm.org](http://newpondfarm.org).

### Sustaining Membership\* *or* Annual Membership:

☐ \$10/month

☐ \$15/month

☐ \$20/month

☐ \$25/month

*\*Charged to your credit  
or debit card each month*

☐ Individual .....\$50

☐ Family .....\$75

☐ Supporter .....\$100

☐ Contributor .....\$300

☐ Patron .....\$500

☐ Sponsor .....\$1,000

☐ Guardian .....\$5,000

### Additional, area specific support options:

☐ Programs for Urban Youth .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Farm: Animals & Agriculture .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Education Programs .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Re-planting of Native Species .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ The Arts (Performing/Visual) .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

**Legacy Membership:** ☐ Please call me

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Ages of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of receiving newsletters and calendars: ☐ Email ☐ USPS ☐ Both

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make check payable to New Pond Farm.)

☐ Please sign me up for auto renewal annually. (Auto renewal requires a credit card.)

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ to be charged. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit or Debit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Billing address same as above. (If not, kindly provide.) Employer Matching Gift Program: ☐ Yes ☐ No

