

35 Years of Environmental Education



New Pond Farm Education Center

FALL 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy September! This is such a spectacular season and we are looking forward to welcoming you back to New Pond Farm Education Center. Inspired by the success of our small and personal summer programs, we have come up with a variety of offerings for children, families, and adults that will focus on nature, geology, Native American culture, agriculture, and the arts. We even have a Harvest Celebration for families. These hands-on programs will be loads of fun and in keeping with our mission of inspiring people of all ages to actively engage with the natural world.

Depending on your comfort level, we invite you to either register for our scheduled programs or arrange a program just for your family or friend group based on eight suggested fall topics. We encourage home-schooling parents to reach out to us with any inquiries. Our talented staff members look forward to creating specialized learning experiences relating to our five prongs of programming.

The health of your family and our staff are of the utmost importance. With that in mind, we have included a summary of the many safety protocols that will be observed during our programs. Feel free to call us with any questions (203) 938-2117. We can't wait to see you!

With warmest regards,

Ann Taylor,
Executive Director

DON'T MISS ANYTHING!

Facebook: [facebook/NewPondFarm](https://www.facebook.com/NewPondFarm)

Twitter: [@NewPondFarm](https://twitter.com/newpondfarm)

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

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

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Fall is the perfect season to get outside and we have several flexible options for you!



In response to the impact of COVID-19 on the reopening of the area schools, your unexpectedly fluid schedules, and keeping everyone's safety in mind, we are offering the following menu of hands-on outdoor activities for your immediate family or your friend group.

OPTION #1: Arrange a Program for Families & Friend Groups

With at least one adult - Great for homeschool groups and children of any age with a parent!

Up to 8 participants, 90-minute program

\$75 per member group and \$90 per non-member group

OPTION #2: Arrange a Drop-Off Program for 6 Friends

*Ages 6-10**

Up to 6 participants, 90-minute program

\$20 per member child and \$25 per non-member child

(Program minimum \$80 for members / \$100 for non-members)

OPTION #3: Customized Program for Your Group or Family

Contact us to discuss.

\$100 minimum for custom programs.

How It Works

Choose a time that fits your schedule September-November: 10 AM - 3:30 PM

Monday-Friday; Saturdays: September 26th, October 3rd or 31st, and November 14th; some Sunday slots are also available

- Time blocks will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.
- All participants will be required to wear a face mask and practice social distancing.
- Classes will be held outside whenever possible. If they move inside due to rain, participants will be appropriately distanced in our classrooms.
- Please dress for the weather.
- Pre-read the attached *Fall Activities Form* for COVID protocols.
- A parent/guardian will be asked to sign our Release Form on the day of each program (one per family). **We will need a form from each Friend Family.*
- Pre-registration and payment are required. **EMAIL: gwen@newpondfarm.org**
- One-week cancellation is required for refunds.

See Next Page For Topic Selections >

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

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TOPICS FOR OPTIONS #1 & 2



The Wonder of Leaves

Our woodlands are like a festival of trees!

Join us up on the trails and discover why and how our trees' leafy food factories are shutting down for winter and taking on the colors of the rainbow. Learn how to identify several types of leaves as you gather your very favorites, make leaf creatures, and create solar prints (sunshine permitting).



Feathers & Scales, Talons & Tails

Using some of our favorite live animals (large and small), and mounted specimens, we will help you to become nature detectives so you can discover some of the fascinating adaptations that are necessary for survival!



Nature Scavenger Hunt

Explore our woodlands and meadows, learn about our wild neighbors, and search for clues they have left behind. It's a terrific time to be outside to witness the many seasonal changes.



Life in the Longhouse

Travel the woodland path to our authentically recreated encampment, complete with a thatched longhouse and barked wigwam. Sit by the fire on deerskin-covered logs and explore ways that our local tribes lived off the land. Learn about shelters, food gathering, hunting, cooking, clothing, and roles of family members.



Sensational Seeds

As we collect a variety of seeds on the property, we will learn about their amazing strategies for dispersal - do they fly on the wind, travel on animal fur, float on the water, get eaten and "planted" by birds, or buried by squirrels? Your seed collection will then be used to create a seasonal work of art.



Perfectly Productive Pollinators

Our gardens and meadow are teeming with beautiful butterflies, beetles, and honey bees, all doing their part to pollinate our fall wildflowers. Search our asters and goldenrods to see how many pollinators you can find, stop by one of our active beehives to observe our tireless worker bees, and make a pollinator craft to take home! Redding and our surrounding towns have joined the Pollinator Pathway and we will share some fun ideas of how your family can help to Save Our Pollinators! (*Best before first frost*)



Fly Casting

What a perfect time to get hooked on the lifelong sport of fly fishing! Learn how to cast a fly line in the field, then head down to the pond and see what impact having the line in the water has on your casting process.

Please note this program is not offered on Mondays, recommended for ages 8 and up or a family group. Limited to 6 participants, all equipment will be provided.



Skeletons and Skulls

We have the bones, we just need sharp-eyed detectives to solve some mysteries - do the bones belong to a raccoon, a fox, perhaps a coyote or bear, maybe an owl? Learn how to identify bones you might discover in the woodlands. Dissect an owl pellet and see if you can find out what the owl had for dinner!

Or...Choose any of our wonderful school field trip programs, descriptions can be found on our website:

www.newpondfarm.org

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

- Pre-registration and payment are required. **Please register at www.newpondfarm.org or by calling (203) 938-2117.**
- One-week cancellation is required for refunds.

ADULT PROGRAMS



Fly Casting for Adults

Saturday, October 10th, 2 PM - 3 PM

Join our Program Director and *Trout Unlimited* member, Tim Laughlin, for an introductory class to fly casting. Like most other sports once you learn the basics you can build off of that. Participants will learn to cast in the field then will walk down to the pond and see what impact the line in the water has on their casting sequence. So, come learn a lifelong skill/sport that gets you outdoors!

All equipment will be provided.

Program limited to 6 participants.

Fee: \$10 per member, \$12 per non-members



Fall Artists at Work

Sunday, October 11th, 10 AM - 3 PM

(Rain Date: Sunday, October 25th)

Two of our favorite artists, Adele Moros and John Forgione, will be here with their easels, palettes, and paint brushes, creating works for our spring Art Show. Please come on over for a foliage walk and stop by to chat with the artists!

Free for NPFEF Members and their guests. Please bring your masks and practice proper distancing.



Introduction to Fly Tying for Adults

Saturday, November 7th, 2 PM - 3 PM

Join our Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for an afternoon of fun. Come learn how to tie a basic fly pattern that could be used in our local waters. Once you tie your first fly you will be hooked on this new hobby.

All materials and equipment will be provided.

Program limited to 6 participants.

Fee: \$10 per member, \$12 per non-member



Wreath Making for Adults

Wednesday, December 2nd, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Thursday, December 3rd, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Friday, December 4th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Fresh greens, pinecones, pods, bows, frames, and your imagination will transform these materials into a family treasure: a spectacular evergreen holiday wreath!

We will be offering 3 nights of wreath making this year so we can be creative in a safe and friendly environment. Please bring a pair of work gloves, clippers, and a mask.

All materials will be provided.

Each program will be limited to 14 participants and you will be working in different spaces within the Learning Center to ensure social distancing.

Fee: \$65 per member, \$75 per non-member

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Fall Family Fun

Saturday, October 17th

Morning session: 10 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon session: 12 PM - 1:30 PM

In lieu of our Annual Harvest Festival, we can't wait to welcome you to a more personal celebration of the harvest season! Bring your family and watch sheep shearing, decorate a pumpkin, and create other fun seasonal crafts to take home!

Limited to 8 families in each session

Fee: \$60 per member family,

\$75 per non-member family



Pumpkin People

Saturday, October 24th, 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Many of you have been greeted by this marvelous display at our Annual Harvest Festival over the years. Now it's your turn to create and build a Pumpkin Person of your very own to greet your guests during the fall season! NPFEF Board Member, Deb Rakich, will lead you through her creative process in an outside setting that allows for proper social distancing. Your finished product will be the talk of the neighborhood!

Limited to 6 families (1 pumpkin person per family), all materials provided.

Fee: \$60 for member families,

\$70 for non-member families

FAMILY PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Geology Walks: Learning to Read & Understand Our Landscape!

It is our pleasure to introduce you to our fascinating new neighbor, Bruce Ward. Bruce has a PhD in geology, is married to a geologist, was raised by two geology teachers, and (no surprise) is an inspiring geologist! As the Chief geologist for e4sciences, an international company that started on a kitchen table in Redding, Bruce is eager to share his passion with all of us! *Please join us for these two exciting and eye-opening programs.*

Geology has played a key role in the landscape of western CT. Our property is underlain by bedrock over 450 million years old that has been sculpted by glaciers, rivers, and humans. Learn how geology influences our soils, plants, rivers, and streams.

Boulders to Mud

Sunday, October 18th, 2 PM

Some of the most active present-day movement of sediment on our property is along the Blackman's Pond Brook. Walk the brook as it meanders through the pastures, visiting our active spring, and discovering a variety of sediment types and sizes. Learn how stones and sediments are used, including in human and wildlife homes. We will pass a popular place for viewing animal tracks along the way.

Recommended for families (group size: maximum of 6). Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. This walk will take you from the hill next to the Learning Center to the stone wall beyond the meadow by the marsh. Mostly a flat gentle walk. Fee: \$10 per member, \$15 per non-member



Boulders and Sediment of New Pond Farm

Saturday, October 24th, 2 PM

After a brief introduction to the rock and sediments found on the Education Center's property, we will use basic geological maps and sketches to put New Pond Farm and the Blackman's Pond Brook watershed in context with the Earth. As we walk, Bruce will help us to read the landscape by sharing insight into the surrounding bedrock, glacial sediments (including boulders), and stream sediments.

Recommended for Middle schoolers - Adults (group size: maximum of 6). Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. This walk will take you up to the top of the hill next to the Learning Center, some parts of this walk are steep. Fee: \$10 per member, \$15 per non-member



Wreath Making for Families

Saturday, December 5th, 2 PM - 4 PM

Join us for an afternoon of family fun creating a holiday decoration for your home, or for a grandparent, a neighbor, or that special friend! Each family group will be assigned their own space within the Learning Center that allows easy social distancing for all!

Wreath rings, fresh greens, and additional decorative items will be provided. Please bring your work gloves, clippers, and masks. After an introduction, our staff members will be here to guide you from a distance!

Limited to 6 families (One wreath per family).

Fee: \$65 per member family,

\$75 per non-member family

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (3-5 YEAR-OLDS)



Librarians and Leaves: Stories & Activities

We have invited two local librarians to come over to the farm this fall and read a book or two with a farm theme and a nature theme. This will take place outside, in a COVID safe environment that allows for social distancing. We will follow up with a short activity on the property that correlates to the theme of the book read.

Thursday, October 1st, 10 AM - 11 AM
(Rain date: Friday, October 2nd)

Lisa Cederbaum, from the Mark Twain Library, will share her favorite farm books, then you will visit the barnyard and coop and meet our cows and chickens!

Thursday, October 8th, 10 AM - 11 AM
(Rain date: Friday October 9th)

A special guest reader from the Bethel Public Library will share great nature stories with us, then we will head out onto the property to discover fall in the woodlands.

Limited to 8 people

Audience: children ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult

Fee: \$5 per member child, \$7 per non-member child

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (6-10 YEAR-OLDS)



Old-Fashioned Toys & Games

Saturday, November 21st, 2 PM - 3:30 PM

Step back in time and create your own whirligigs, bull roarers, comets, and ring tosses. Let's have fun with these flying and spinning devices and play some games that were popular back when children attended Redding's one-room schoolhouse.

Children ages 6-10. Program limited to 6 participants.

Fee: \$12 per member, \$15 per non-member



Annual Crafting Extravaganza for Children

**Sunday, December 6th,
12 PM - 1:30 PM or 2 PM - 3:30 PM**

Let's get the holiday season off to a festive start! Join us in creating a series of winter crafts from garlands made from cinnamon ornaments, baked oranges, and laurel leaves to enchanting snowmen, gnomes, and animals. Bring home these holiday crafts and enjoy them through the entire holiday season!

Children ages 6-10. Limit 6 children per session.

\$12 per member, \$16 per non-member



FALL ACTIVITIES FORM

Greetings from New Pond Farm Education Center!

We have had terrific feedback about our Summer Programs, and we are looking forward to sharing more outdoor programming with you throughout the fall. Our safety protocols and procedures will still be in place. We are doing our best to ensure that parents, students, and our staff feel confident that we will be sharing a safe learning environment. We need to work together to make these protocols effective so please read this page carefully. *On the first day of your program we will ask you to sign the Release Form on the bottom of this page.*

Safety Precautions that will be in place

Group Size: Six students and an educator in our children's programs or eight people and an educator in our family or friend group programs.

Health Screening: Please arrive a few minutes early so temperatures may be taken. Note: our staff members will go through the same daily screening.

Masks: We ask that all participants wear masks to protect themselves and others. Our educators will be wearing theirs as well.

The Learning Center: Will only be open to our staff members and program participants, not the general public.

Locations: Our programs will be conducted out on the property and under well-spaced pop-up tents. Participants will be spaced at either end of our 6' tables when doing crafts or other activities. Programs are rain-or-shine, in the event of torrential rain or thunderstorms we will offer an alternate program and will be carefully spaced within the Learning Center.

Restrooms: These will be cleaned between each use.

Handwashing: Handwashing stations or hand sanitizer will be provided, when needed.

Enhanced Cleaning: Our tables, program equipment and any high-touch surfaces (door handles) will be sanitized at the beginning and conclusion of each class. Bathrooms will be wiped down with disinfectant between each use.

Tools & Supplies: We have an ample supply of items like pond strainers, magnifying glasses, and craft supplies so they will not have to be shared. Items will be washed down with disinfectant between classes. When it comes to crafts, each child will be given their own supplies.

Before leaving home:

- Make sure all participants have a well-fitted mask or cloth face covering.
- Wear clothes and shoes that are exploration-friendly!
No open-toed sandals please.
- Pack a water bottle

Protocol if students or staff members have Covid-19 symptoms

- If a student or a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, or has come into prolonged contact with someone who has, we will maintain patient confidentiality but will notify all families and local health officials as soon as possible.
- Anyone who is determined to have had close contact with the affected person will be excluded from future programs for 14 days (credit given).
- Should public health guidelines change our plans, we will alert families and refund registration fees if requested.
- Our caring and professional staff members are committed to providing exciting outdoor programs, observing safety protocols throughout their time on the property!

This RELEASE FORM must be signed by each family on the day of your program — we will have blank copies available if necessary

_____ To the best of my knowledge, none of my family members have been in contact with anyone who has Covid-19

_____ To the best of my knowledge, none of my family members have been displaying any symptoms of Covid-19

_____ I have read the safety precautions that are being put in place by New Pond Farm Education Center ("The Center") for the 2020 Fall season, but understand there are no guarantees that participants will not be exposed to Covid-19 there or elsewhere.

_____ By signing this Release Form, I, the legal parent/guardian, grant permission for myself/my children to participate in the programs at New Pond Farm Education Center. I agree to release and hold harmless "The Center" and its directors, officers, employees, and other children at "The Center" from any and all injuries or claims which may result from my/my children's participation at "The Center", including but not limited to exposure to Covid-19.

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____ Signature: _____



New Pond Farm Education Center

Box 116 • 101 Marchant Road
West Redding, CT 06896

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration & Prepayment required for all programs
- To register please visit 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

PROPERTY INFORMATION

- Our property is open to current members from dawn to dusk
- Please leave your dogs at home
- Bring masks with you in case you cross paths with others. Practice social distancing. Wear a mask when entering the Dairy Annex. Remember that the barn is STAFF ONLY. The Learning Center is only open for our staff and students.

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.

Sustaining Membership:

- ☐ \$10/month
- ☐ \$15/month
- ☐ \$20/month
- ☐ \$25/month

Annual Membership:

- ☐ Individual\$50
- ☐ Family\$75
- ☐ Supporter \$100
- ☐ Contributor ... \$300
- ☐ Patron \$500
- ☐ Sponsor \$1,000
- ☐ Guardian \$5,000

Legacy Membership:

- ☐ Please call me

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

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