

New Pond Farm Education Center

WINTER & SPRING 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! 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 Fall 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. 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 six suggested topics. We encourage any 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

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



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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

\$90 per member group and \$100 per non-member group

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

*Ages 6-10**

Up to 6 participants, 90-minute program

\$90 per member group and \$100 per non-member group

How It Works

**Choose a time slot that fits your schedule January-March: 10 AM- 3:30 PM
Monday - Saturdays (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.
- Please dress for the weather, programs will be held outside whenever possible.
If they move inside due to rain, participants will be appropriately distanced in our Learning Center.
- Pre-read the attached Winter 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.
- To register: send an email to Gwen Denny (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



Native American Games

Did you know that Native American games were used to improve hand-eye coordination as well as thinking skills? Join us at the encampment to make and play Native American games, then take them home to practice with.



Winter Bingo

Take a guided hike along one of our trails on top of the hill and use your bingo card to discover the wonders of winter. Come see things you might have missed if you were not looking close enough to the wonders of a winter wonderland created by nature.



Build a Bluebird Box

Join us and assemble a bluebird box that can be taken home and strategically placed on your property. Learn about the annual cycle needed to maintain your bird box so bluebirds can enjoy your hard work year after year!

Only offered until March 15th

Limit one per family.

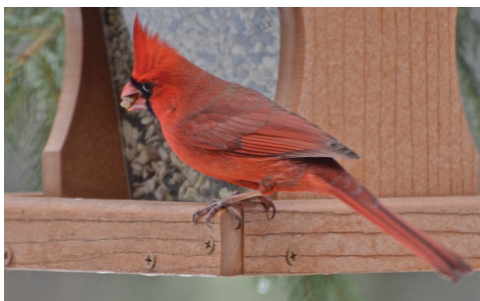
One-weeks' notice required for registration.



Maple Syruping

Learn about one of New England's famous traditions! You will learn to identify and tap a sugar maple tree- depending on the temperature, you may even collect some sap. Then move to our Sugar Shed and discover how we use our evaporator to boil down the sap until it becomes delicious syrup. Next, in our Warming Hut you will learn about some old-fashioned equipment and other products that come from the sap of a maple tree! As a final treat, enjoy a slice of fresh cornbread, drizzled with maple syrup, Yum!

***This program is date sensitive,
and will only be offered Feb. 8th – Mar. 6th***



Introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an excellent way to be a participant in an annual worldwide citizen science project where your data is collected and sent to scientists. Even better, your research can be completed from your home during the specific 4-day window (February 12-15, 2021) assigned to collect the data worldwide.

Come learn about bird seeds, bird feeders, important guides and apps, and places to find specifics on what to do and how to do it!

Only offered until February 12th



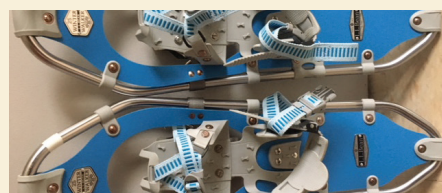
Feed the Birds

With winter upon us the birds need your help! Make a simple bird feeder and then choose just the right spot to hang it in our "forest regrowth area". Then make another feeder to take home for the hungry birds on your property!

**Did you know that during Storm Sandy, two microbursts touched down on the farm and leveled two areas of the farm? Our "forest regrowth area" is making a strong comeback, while the other site has been turned into a pollinator meadow to help pollinators!*

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

To schedule a program please email **Gwen Denny**
gwen@newpondfarm.org
or call (203) 938-2117



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 w/poles in both adult and children sizes that our members can sign out and borrow for use on the property. If you would like to be on our "call list" for impromptu snowshoeing, please email our Program Director, Tim Laughlin (tim@newpondfarm.org) or call us (203-938-2117) the day of to see the availability of snowshoes on that particular day.

ADULT PROGRAMS



Pruning & Practices

Saturday, March 13th, 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!

*Fee: \$20 per member, \$25 per non-member
Registration is required, program is limited to 6 masked adults.*



Introduction to Fly Tying for Adults Part 2

Saturday, March 20th, 2 PM – 3 PM

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for the next step in his introduction to fly tying. If you have tied a Woolly Bugger you are now ready to tie the Adams Fly. It's the perfect time to add new skills to your fly-tying skill set. Take home your finished product and add it to your fly-box!

*All materials and equipment will be provided.
Part 1 is not required, but is recommended.
Program limited to 6 participants to maintain proper social distancing.
Masks will be required.*

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS (PROGRAMS ARE LIMITED TO 8 PARTICIPANTS)

January Guided Family Hike

**Saturday, January 30th,
10 AM – 11 AM or 2 PM – 3 PM**

Let's bundle up, enjoy some fresh air, and celebrate the wonders of winter with fresh eyes! Join our Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for an hour-long guided walk on our trails. Follow the ridge, with its rocky outcroppings and glacial erratics. Discover woodpecker holes, signs of flying squirrels and other wildlife- if we are fortunate enough to have snow, we can go tracking.

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



Astronomy

Saturday, February 20th, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Saturday, February 20th, 8 PM – 9 PM

Saturday, March 20th, 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Weather permitting, we will use binoculars and the unaided eye to view the moon and look for the constellations *Auriga*, *Canis Major*, *Gemini*, *Camelopardalis*, *Cassiopeia*, and *Orion* in addition to the stars *Betelgeuse*, *Castor*, and *Pollux*.

We recommend that you bring a pair of binoculars and chairs or blankets to sit on and a flashlight for the walk to and from the parking lot to Astronomy Hill. Each session will be limited to 6 families, or bubble groups, that will sit outside on *Astronomy Hill* while maintaining a safe social distance from each group.

Per Program Fee:

*\$4 per member with \$16 maximum per member family
\$6 per non-member with \$24 maximum per non-family*

(In the event conditions are unfavorable on Saturday night, the program will be offered on Sunday, Feb. 21st and Sunday, Mar. 21st at the same times)

February Guided Family Hike

**Saturday, February 27th,
10 AM – 11 AM or 2 PM – 3 PM**

Is sap flowing from our Sugar Maples, are Hellebores and Snowdrops making an appearance, are songbirds now singing their territorial calls in anticipation of Spring? Let's become nature detectives and see what wildlife clues we can find — if we are fortunate enough to have snow, we can go tracking.

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



Maple Syrup- A New England Tradition

**Saturday, February 27th or March 6th,
1 PM – 2:30 PM**

Learn to identify a Sugar Maple, help us tap a tree or two, listen for the sound of running sap hitting the metal bucket, head to our evaporator to see how we boil down the sap to make delicious syrup, and discover what other tasty products come from Sugar Maples.

Group size will be restricted to 8 in each session.

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

March Guided Family Hike

**Saturday, March 27th,
10 AM – 11 AM or 2 PM – 3 PM**

Spring has sprung! Let's explore our woodlands, wetlands, and gardens. Perhaps we will find emerging skunk cabbages, the calls of early Peepers, Spotted Salamander eggs in the marsh, Bluebirds claiming their nest boxes- it's an amazing time to be outside! Join our Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for an hour of Spring inspiration!

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

- All participants will be required to wear a face mask and practice social distancing guidelines.
- Programs will be held outside whenever possible. *If they move inside due to rain, participants will be appropriately distanced within our Learning Center.*
- Dress for the weather.
- A parent/guardian will be asked to sign our Release Form on the day of the program (one form per family).
- Pre-registration and payment are required. Please register at newpondfarm.org or by calling (203) 938-2117.
- 1-week cancellation is required for refunds.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Programs are limited to 3 parent/child teams



After school Animal Care Workshop (with a parent)

**Thursday, February 18th or
Thursday, March 4th, 4 PM - 4:45 PM**

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

Free — This is an indoor program, each program is limited to 3 parent/child teams. Masks will be required.

CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5

Budding Naturalists

Tuesdays, 10 AM - 10:45 AM

February 2nd

It's Groundhog Day! Learn about these fascinating and industrious neighbors: their ability to sleep for more than four months at a time, their fantastic tunneling skills and underground layout, and their favorite food. Although they will still be sleeping, we will take a walk out to a favorite den or two on the farm so you will learn to recognize their hidden doorways.

February 9th or February 16th

Bundle up and join our Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a nature discovery walk. We will be looking for clues about animal activity in winter.

March 23rd

Let's take a walk and look for signs of spring. We will look for emerging plants, birds at bird boxes, and activity in the stream, pond, and marsh.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and dressed for the outdoors. (Weather permitting.)

Each hike is FREE for member children, \$5 per non-member child

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Programs are limited to 6 participants



February & March Programs 6 to 8-year-olds and 9 to 12-year-olds

Wednesday afternoons: 3:30 PM - 5 PM

February 3rd, 10th, and 17th

(24th is the snow/rain date)

March 3rd, 10th, and 17th

(24th is the snow/rain date)

We had so much fun with our Wednesday afternoon programs in the Fall, we're continuing them in the Spring! We'll meet every Wednesday from 3:30-5p.m. for a different enriching program on our 102-acre property.

Once again, we will be limiting group size to six children, with one group each for ages 6-8 and 9-12. Programs will take place outdoors or in one of our indoor spaces with plenty of distance. Masks will be worn unless we are in an outdoor area where we can be spaced safely apart. Programs will run rain or shine.

Three sessions: \$75 per member child, \$90 per non-member child

Registration Required.

Limit of 6 masked explorers per group!

Valentine's Day Crafts

Thursday, February 11th, 2 PM - 3 PM

Friday, February 12th, 10 AM - 11 AM

Saturday, February 13th, 10 AM - 11 AM

It's time to create hearts and flowers to share with your family and special friends. Bring your creativity and join our staff for an afternoon of fun.

This indoor activity is being offered in 3 sections to allow for proper COVID protocols and ample space for social distancing. *Each section will be limited to 6 participants wearing masks, sitting at least 6 feet from one another, with windows cracked open to create a flow of fresh air.*

Each program is \$12 per member child, \$14 per non-member child



Maple Syrup

Friday, February 12th, 1 PM - 2:30 PM

Learn about one of New England's famous traditions! Learn to identify and tap a sugar maple tree- depending on the temperature, you may even collect some sap. Take a trip to our Encampment to learn how the Eastern Woodland Indians used Maple sap. While visiting our Sugar Shed, discover how we use our evaporator to boil down the sap until it becomes delicious syrup and learn about other products that come from the sap of a maple tree!

This program is limited to 6 children per 6-8 or 9-12 year-old group

Fee: \$12 per member child, \$14 per non-member child



Build a Bluebird Box to Take Home

Friday, March 12th, 2PM - 3:30 PM

Join us and assemble a bluebird house for your yard using rough cut lumber. Once built, participants will be given details on where to place their birdhouses and when to start looking for activity at their box! Bluebirds are highly desirable residents with attractive plumage, insectivorous diets, and melodious songs. With the right bluebird house, positioned properly to attract tenants, any backyard birder can become a bluebird landlord!

This program is limited to 6 children per 7-9 or 10-12 year-old group.

Fee: \$20 per member, \$25 per non-member



From Seed to Harvest

Friday, March 26th, 3:30 PM- 4:30 PM

Start your vegetable garden with seeding beets, carrots, spring peas, and lettuce. We will share instructions for tending your garden so you will be ready for transplanting in early May. Learn why it's so important to support our pollinators, and even plant a few sunflower seeds! These young farmers with their gardens will become part of Fairfield County's Pollinator Pathway initiative!

This program is for children ages 6-10

Fee: \$12 per member child, \$14 per non-member child



WINTER & SPRING ACTIVITIES FORM

Greetings from New Pond Farm Education Center!

We have had terrific feedback about our Fall Programs, and we are looking forward to sharing more outdoor programming with you throughout the Winter & Spring. 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 day of your program, we will ask you, as the parent/guardian, to sign the Release Form at 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.

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 outside on the property, so please have participants dress accordingly. In the event of a sudden change in weather conditions, participants will move into the Learning Center where we will be spread-out to maintain social distancing.

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 programs. 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 boots that are exploration-friendly and appropriate for the day's weather conditions!
- Please take temperatures of your participants to ensure that everyone is under 100°.

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 has 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 2021 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

