

Environmental Education Since 1985



# New Pond Farm Education Center

**SPRING 2021**

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Spring! 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 winter 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 five 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 for you.

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](mailto:info@newpondfarm.org)

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### Invitational Art Show

**June 5 - 13, Gallery Hours: 12 PM - 5 PM or by appointment**

This fantastic biennial event will showcase artwork by some of the region's finest artists, and will include a silent auction, art demonstrations, and activities for children and adults, all celebrating the timeless themes of nature and agrarian life inspired by New Pond Farm. Our beautiful barn-like Gathering Place will be the setting for in-person viewing and a virtual gallery will debut for those wishing to browse and buy from the comfort of their home.

*Please visit our website for more details.*



### For the Love of Gardening

**Saturday, June 12, 10 AM - 4:30 PM (Rain or Shine)**

This will be a joyful garden tour of seven exceptional private gardens in Redding that you won't want to miss.

As you tour these unique perennial, herb, and vegetable gardens with their statuary and water features, we invite you to stop by New Pond Farm's gardens to enjoy a delicious boxed lunch prepared by Collyer Catering (see website for details).

We hope you will join us for this inspiring fundraiser which will benefit both the *Redding Garden Club Scholarship Fund* and *New Pond Farm Education Center's Educational Programs*.

*Walking Shoes are Recommended • Gardens are Not Wheelchair Accessible*  
*\$50 for the Tour / \$65 for the Tour and Boxed Lunch.*

*Please visit our website for registration.*

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



## ADULT PROGRAMS



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

**Thursday, April 22, 11 AM - 12:30 PM**

Each year in memory of one of our founding Board members, Helen Hermes, our Executive Director, Ann Taylor, invites you to join her for 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! Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch and share happy conversations (at a safe distance) on our balcony as you enjoy the weeping cherry blossoms and views into our early spring pastures.

*This program is limited to 8 participants.*

*FREE thanks to the Schroeder Education Fund*



### Fly-Casting

**Saturday, May 22, 10 AM- 11 AM**

Join our Program Director and Trout Unlimited member, Tim Laughlin, for an introduction 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.

*This program is limited to 6 participants.*

*\$10 per member adult, \$12 per non-member adult*



### Introduction To Fly-Tying: Part 2

**Saturday, May 22, 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 onto 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.*

*This program is limited to 6 participants*

*\$10 per member adult, \$12 per non-member adult*

## NEW! PARENT & CHILD GARDENING!

### Get Down to Earth!

### Gardening Plots for Parents and Children

**Memorial Day (May 31) - Labor Day (September 6)**

This year, we are offering a limited number of garden plots and a special opportunity for parents to introduce their children to the wonders of gardening! Your 3' x 6' plot will be within our fenced-in vegetable garden.

What our farmers are offering you:

- Richly fertilized and roto-tilled soil
- Access to fresh water
- A team of encouraging volunteer advisors, if you need help

What our farmers are asking of you:

- A current updated Family membership (or higher) to the Education Center
- To consider planting seeds from this recommended list: radishes, beets, lettuce, carrots, or basil (please no vining plants - the plot size is so small)
- An agreement to weed and water at least 3-times a week (a daily basis is preferred)
- Your commitment will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day, after which time the gardens will be "put to bed"
- By becoming a part of this cooperative gardening community, you will meet fellow enthusiasts and be required to work together to meet your responsibilities

*Registration is required by Wednesday May 26, an orientation meeting TBA, \$150 per family*





## FAMILY PROGRAMS

*All programs are limited to 8 participants, unless note.*



### Peeper Patrol

**Thursday, April 15, Friday, April 16, or  
Saturday, April 17, 7 PM - 8:30 PM**

Put on your boots, grab your flashlight, and join us for an exciting night of exploration in our wetlands. This popular annual event is great fun for the whole family. We will search the pond, marsh, and surrounding wetlands for a variety of our chorusing amphibians. Please wear water-proof boots, make sure that all explorers have their own flashlights, and be sure to check those flashlight batteries before coming!

**Members only!**

*Limited to three families each night  
Each program is \$15 per member family*



### Earth Day Celebratory Hike!

**Saturday, April 24, 10 AM - 11 AM**

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a spring hike up to Mt. Baldy and along the spine of our property. Spring has sprung and you will discover woodland wildflowers, lush ferns, nesting birds, chorusing amphibians, and more! Celebrate the wonders that can be found when you let your senses connect with nature. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.

*Each hike is \$10 per member family,  
\$15 per non-member family*



### Earth Art

**Friday, April 23, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

Channel your inner Andy Goldsworthy and join us down in the meadow to create your earth friendly works of art, using only elements of nature, your bare hands, and your imaginations. Leave your creations in place for other New Pond Farm members to enjoy. Guidelines will be given to participants upon arrival.

*FREE, registration is required.*



### Astronomy

**Saturday, May 15, 8 PM or  
Saturday, June 19, 8:30 PM**

**On May 15** we will have spectacular views of Mars, the Moon, and spring constellations: Ursa Major, Leo, Cancer, Virgo, and Bootes.

**On June 19** Venus, the Moon, summer constellations: Hercules, Cygnus, Lyra, and the Summer Triangle (Vega, Altair, and Deneb) will be the standouts in the night sky. Please bring your binoculars.

*Each program is limited to 20 participants.  
Each program is \$5 per member, \$8 per non-member*

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



### After School Animal Care Workshop

**Tuesday April 27 or  
Tuesday May 25, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Join Thatcher Taylor for a workshop on how to feed and handle the amphibians and reptiles in our wildlife room. We are always eager to train responsible individuals to help our staff with daily feedings! We are looking for volunteers that are comfortable with our program animals and available to help out after school or on weekends.

*FREE — Participants under 18 years old must come with a parent or guardian. Each program is limited to 2 student/adult teams.*



### Letterboxing Scavenger Hunts

**Tuesday May 4 or  
Thursday May 27, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Join us up on the trails for a unique scavenger hunt format called Letterboxing. Following specific geographical directions to a "hidden" letterbox where you will discover a new set of directions, and continue the process until you complete the hunt. Thinking skills are required!

*These programs are each limited to 8 participants  
These drop-off programs are each \$8 per member,  
\$10 per non-member.*



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

*All programs are drop-off programs, unless noted.*



### Spring Vacation Adventures

**Monday - Friday, April 12 - 16**  
**9:30 AM - 12 PM**

Spring has sprung and it's time to make new discoveries!! Dress for exploring and join us for an action-packed week of outdoor fun for children ages 6-8 and 9-12. Nature Hikes, Scavenger Hunts, Animal Extravanzas, Spring Farm Celebrations, and more! We can't wait to see you!

*This week-long program is \$200 per member, \$250 per non-member*



### Wednesday Explorers! 6 to 8-year-olds and 9 to 12-year-olds

**April Dates: 7, 21, and 28**

**May Dates: 5, 12, and 19, 3:30 PM - 5 PM**

We've been having so much fun with our Wednesday afternoon programs, we're continuing them through the Spring! Explorers will head out onto our 102-acre property to make exciting seasonal discoveries.

*Each Month: \$75 per member child, \$90 per non-member child*

*Once again, we will limit group sizes and 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.*

## SCHOOL'S OUT EARLY – LET'S HAVE FUN!



### Piglets to Tadpoles

**Wednesday, April 28, 1:30 - 2:30 PM**

It's time to forget about the snow and ice and to celebrate signs of spring! Let's search our woodlands, wetlands, and animal paddocks for emerging plants and young animals. Dress for the weather conditions.

### Chicken and the Egg

**Thursday, April 29, 1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Just in time to visit the chicken coop to see the new chicks, the chickens, and if there is any activity in the egg laying boxes. Learn about the chicken's egg laying schedule, their feeding areas, potential intruders and where the eggs go once collected.

### Bees and Bugs

**Friday, April 30, 1:30 - 2:30 PM**

Find out what all the "BUZZ" is about! Visit an active beehive, learn about its new inhabitants and how they got to the farm. Then take a short walk looking for evidence of "bug" activities, both on land and in the water!



*Note: Early Dismissal Days for R.E.S.*

*Each Program limited to 8 participants*

*\$8 per member child, \$10 per non-member child*

### Make Your Own Seed Paper!

**Thursday, April 22, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Celebrate Earth Day with a craft that can be planted on your property. We will be using seeds from sunflowers and native wildflowers so that when they bloom they will help the pollinators. What a great gift to give back to "Mother Earth"!

*Limited to 6 participants*

*\$8 per member child, \$10 per non-member child*

### Creating Gifts for Mother's Day!

**Thursday, May 6, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Let us help you in preparing two wonderful gifts to be given to a special person in your life. Your creations will show how much you appreciate everything she does for you and your family.

*Limited to 6 participants*

*\$10 per member child, \$14 per non-member child*

### Make Gifts for Dad!

**Wednesday, June 16, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Join us in creating two handmade gifts that will help Dad remember the important things on his "to do" list. He will certainly put them to good use!

*Limited to 6 participants*

*\$10 per member child, \$14 per non-member child*



# ART WEEK

*For Elementary & Middle School Students*

## Nature Craft Programs for Children during our Art Show

**June 7 - 11, 4 PM - 5 PM**

While your child/children enjoy the program, browse through the art show upstairs in our Gathering Place and Common Room.

*Each program is limited to 6 participants  
\$10 per member, \$14 per non-member*



### Shadow Boxes

**Tuesday, June 8**

Create a unique shadow box using natural materials gathered from the farm and layered with photographs of landscape scenery and animals.



### Flower Wall Hangings

**Thursday, June 10**

Experiment with natural pigments in flower stems, petals, and leaves. These we will artfully arrange on cloth and hammer into a beautiful fluttering wall hanging to take home.



### Nature's Paintbrushes

**Monday, June 7**

Make your own paintbrushes using twigs, leaves, and grasses then have fun practicing your drawing and calligraphy on a "magic" disappearing cloth.



### Earth Art

**Wednesday, June 9**

Simply using our hands for tools and found natural objects for art supplies, the earth becomes a blank canvas upon which to create these beautiful ephemeral works of art.



### Fairy Gardens

**Friday, June 11**

Plant a garden for your resident fairies using natural materials and miscellaneous bits and pieces. These we will fashion into a charming landscape design that you can transplant to your own backyard.

## CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5



### Spring Stories & Outdoor Adventures

**Tuesday mornings 10 AM- 11 AM  
April 6 or 20, May 11 or 25**

Join "Miss Lisa", from the Mark Twain Library, for stories about the farm and animals in nature. Then join our staff for a program that features something special that was featured in the stories.

All programs will be held outside when the weather allows. If we encounter inclement weather we will move to an inside space that will allow for proper social distancing.

*Children must be accompanied by an adult  
Group size is limited to 4 children/adult pairs  
Each program is \$8 per member child with an adult,  
\$10 per non-member child with an adult*



### Scavenger Hunt & Hike

**Tuesday, May 18, 10 AM- 11 AM**

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a scavenger hunt. Hike our pasture loop looking for signs of nature found along the way, perhaps our wild neighbors will have left a few clues for you to discover!

*Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
Group size is limited to 4 children/adult pairs  
\$8 per member family, \$10 per non-member family*



# SUMMER TIME FUN AT NEW POND NOW INCLUDES SWIMMING!

## Summer Time Fun On At New Pond!

Six one-week-long opportunities are available to children ages 6-8 and 9-12

**Monday - Friday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM**

**June 21 - 25, June 28 - July 2, July 12 - 16,**

**July 26 - 30, August 2 - 6, and August 9 - 13**

Our 102-acre outdoor classroom, with its woodlands, wetlands, meadows, pastures, and barnyard, will be ours to explore! Every morning will be filled to the brim with hands-on outdoor adventures based on the theme of the day. Search the stream for crayfish, explore the pond for tadpoles, get up close and personal with our turtles, frogs and other program animals, build survival shelters, learn about woodland Indians, visit with our farm animals, plant and harvest in the gardens, do some nature crafting, play fun conservation games, and so much more. **This summer program includes two opportunities to swim in our crystal-clear pool, under the supervision of a lifeguard.** *Young explorers will leave us as nature detectives and nature defenders!*

All programs are designed to be held outside (rain or shine), however in the event of extreme weather we will move inside to large well-ventilated spaces that allow for social distancing.

*Each week is \$275 per member, \$325 per non-member (includes daily snacks, a t-shirt, & two swims)*



## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES & FRIEND GROUPS

Spring 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 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 12 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 8 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 during April - August.**

- 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 moved inside, participants will be appropriately distanced in our Learning Center.
- A parent/guardian will be asked to sign our Release Form on the day of each program (1 per family) \*We will need a form from each Friend/Family
- Pre-registration and payment are required
- To register: please email Gwen Denny (gwen@newpondfarm.org)
- One-week cancellation notice is required for refunds

### Woodland Indians

Visit our longhouse and wigwam. Learn about Woodland Indian: family life, what they wore, how they cooked, what they ate, and games played. Sample traditional foods while sitting in a Woodland Indian kitchen.

### Insect Hunt

Become a member of the Bug Squad! Using nets, bug boxes, and magnifying glasses we will hunt for, examine, and observe a fantastic variety of insects in our pollinator meadow, wetlands, and gardens. Learn about life cycles, food chains, and the important roles insects play in nature and in our lives as pollinators, decomposers, and more! Learn about the Pollinator-Pathway initiative right here in Redding and neighboring towns.

### Farm Animals

Moo, cluck, baa, oink! Meet our cows, chickens, sheep, and pigs and learn about what's on their menu, where they sleep, and their activities on the farm. Then meet our smallest members of our livestock: honey bees! Visit a hive and learn about all the inner dynamics that are taking place amongst the specialized players who live inside!

### Freshwater Exploration

From crayfish to salamanders and turtles to tadpoles, let's discover who actually lives in our stream, pond, and marsh and try to figure out why they select these different habitats. Learn about the parade of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that just visit these wetland areas. Help us to do some problem solving-what happens to these creatures during times of high and low water? Please wear clothes and shoes that can get wet!

### Hike/Scavenger Hunt

Two different options exist: the first for younger participants ages 3-6 and the second for ages 7 and up. Younger scavenger hunters will focus on "hunting" along the farm road loop while more advanced hunters will venture up to the trails on the hill. Watch the excitement level increase on either pathway they are on. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.





# 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](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

## 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 to our staff and students. Restrooms available upon request.

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:

- ☐ \$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