

Environmental Education Since 1985



# New Pond Farm Education Center

**WINTER/SPRING 2022**

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy February! 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 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://facebook.com/NewPondFarm)

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

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

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

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### Wolves of North America

#### A Virtual Presentation

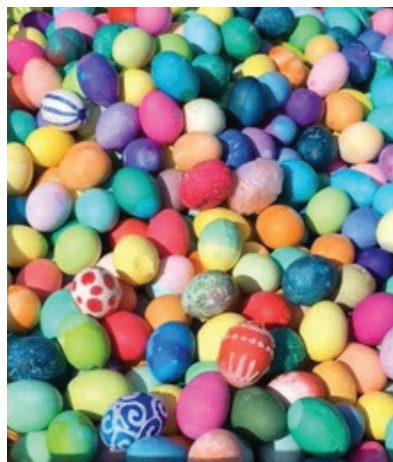
**Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 PM - 7 PM**

Learn about North America's wildest residents - wolves - during an education session with an expert from the Wolf Conservation Center in North Salem NY who will share the history, ecology, and biology of wolves. You will also learn about the current challenges facing wolf recovery across the United States with an emphasis placed on endangered species recovery programs for critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves.

This program will include a pre-recorded video of WCC ambassador wolves and will provide access to live webcams of critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves.

*This program will be hosted via ZOOM. Registered participants will be emailed an invitation the day of the program. **Recommended for people of all ages***

*\$10 per Member family, \$15 per Non-member family.*



### Old Fashioned Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 9, 11 AM - 12 PM**

**(Rain Date: April 16)**

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*

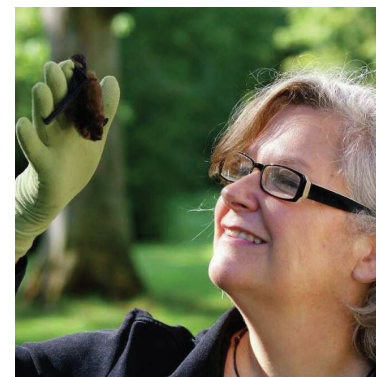
### Bats Are Good Guys

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

Join Gerri Griswold, known as The Bat Lady, from the White Memorial Conservation Center for a lavishly illustrated presentation that touches on the basics of one of the most beneficial and maligned animals on the planet- the bat. How many species of bats are there? Where do they live? Why are they so important? What is harming them? These questions and much more will be addressed.

***Recommended for people of all ages.***

*\$12 per Member, \$15 per Non-member*



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

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### Reptiles Rock!

**Saturday, June 4, 12 PM - 1:30 PM**

Join a herpetologist/conservation educator, from Rainforest Reptiles, for a high energy show that features reptiles from different parts of the world. During this interactive, program encounters may include a giant toad, a large lizard, an enormous tortoise, a very long crocodilian, and an awesome snake. Rainforest Reptiles is known internationally for their specialized classes teaching law enforcement officers how to handle reptiles safely and humanely.

*Recommended for people of all ages*  
\$12 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 wigwam; 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@newpondfarm.org](mailto:gwen@newpondfarm.org).

## 3 - 5 YEAR OLDS WITH AN ADULT

### Budding Naturalists

**1st Wednesday in March, April, & May**  
**10 AM - 10:45 AM**

### Signs of Seasonal Changes

**March 2**

Bundle up and take a discovery walk. Look for clues about animal activity during this cold month. Footprints help us see what animals are active.

### Signs of Spring

**April 6**

On this walk we will be looking for signs of spring- emerging plants, birds carrying nesting materials, bees gathering pollen, and activity in our wetlands.



### Wetland Exploration

**May 4**

Now that the weather is warmer, we can put on our boots and wade into the stream to look for active animals like water pennies and crayfish. Then we will venture over to the marsh in search of tadpoles and dragonfly nymphs!

*Each program is:*  
\$5 per Member child, \$7 per Non-member child

## SUMMER CAMP

*Registration will open Saturday, February 12*



**Six one-week opportunities are available to children entering grades 1st to 3rd and 4th to 6th, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

**June 27 - July 1, July 5 - 8, July 11 - 15, July 25 - 29, August 1 - 5, August 8 - 12**

Our 102-acre outdoor classroom, with its woodlands, wetlands, meadows, pastures, and barnyard will be ours to explore! Every day will be filled to the brim with hands-on outdoor adventures based on the theme of that day. Activities may include: searching the stream for crayfish, exploring the pond for tadpoles, getting up close and personal with our program animals, building survival shelters, learning about Woodland Indians, visiting our farm animals, planting seeds in our garden, doing some nature crafts, playing conservation games, taking a hike, and much, more!

This program allows for several swims in our pool each week under the supervision of a certified lifeguard.

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

\$450 per Member child, \$500 per Non-member child  
(\$360 per Member, \$400 per Non-member on short week)  
(includes tee shirt & daily snacks- campers must bring a bagged lunch)



## ADULT PROGRAMS



### Introduction to Fly Tying

**Saturday, April 16, 2 PM - 3 PM**

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for an introductory hands-on program on fly tying. You will tie a fly called a Woolly Bugger to take home. Once started, this could become a lifelong hobby!

*All equipment and materials will be provided.*

*\$15 per Member, \$20 per Non-member*



### Wildflower Ramble & Brown Bag Lunch

**Wednesday, April 20, 11 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**(Rain Date: April 21)**

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, 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*

## SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

- All participants will be required to wear a face mask when inside 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](http://newpondfarm.org) or by calling (203) 938-2117.
- 1-week cancellation is required for refunds.



### What Do You Know About Ticks?

**A Virtual Presentation**

**Tuesday, April 26, 7 PM - 8 PM**

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

*This program will be hosted via ZOOM. Registered participants will be emailed an invitation the day of the program.*

***This program is recommended for adults and teens***

*\$10 per Member, \$15 per Non-member*



### Birding & Breakfast with Miley Bull

**Date TBD, 7 AM - 9 AM**

Miley Bull is a one-of-a-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*

## We're Open to Members

Our members are welcome to enjoy the property; winter hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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!!**

Please park at the Learning Center and walk out to the pastures and please call to let us know you are coming, we also ask that you leave your dogs at home.

## 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).



## Calling All Volunteers!

Join in on the fun! We would love helping hands for: **Wildlife Room Training: How to become a Feeder**

Do you like lizards, turtles, or amphibians? Well if you do, then consider signing up for a training session designed to teach potential feeders how to feed and care for these animals. If you are interested after this first training, we will arrange for you, and an adult, to schedule routine feedings. Candidates must be accompanied by an adult who will stay for the entire training session. Please contact Thatcher Taylor ([thatcher@newpondfarm.org](mailto:thatcher@newpondfarm.org)) for more information.

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



### Maple Syruping

**Saturday, February 19, 11 AM - 12:30 PM**

Have you wondered how many steps are involved in making a bottle of syrup? Join us as we introduce you to each step of this sweet process and review the materials needed to make syrup in your own backyard. *Please dress for the weather.*

*\$12 per Member, \$16 per Non-member*



### Introduction to Snowshoeing

**Saturday, February 19, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

After showing you how to put on our snowshoes and adjust our poles, we will head off to explore our pastures and to discover tracks and traces left behind by our wild neighbors! Our property is a great place to snowshoe because of its size and varied terrain. *All equipment will be provided thanks to our outdoor partner, L.L. Bean. Please dress in layers and warm boots.*

*Weather permitting*

*\$10 per Member, \$15 per Non-member*

### Introduction to Fly Tying

**Saturday, April 30, 10 AM - 11 AM**

Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for an introductory hands-on lesson of the fascinating art of fly tying. We will tie a fly called a Woolly Buzzer to take it home when you're complete. Once started this could become a lifelong hobby!

*All equipment is provided, limited to 6 participants.*

*\$15 per Member, \$20 per Non-member*

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

*Drop-off programs for children in 1st to 4th grades unless noted.*



### Wednesday Afternoon Explorers

**March 30, April 20 & 27, May 11 & 25, 3:30 PM - 5 PM**

Each week explorers will head out onto our 102-acres and make exciting discoveries, either in our woodlands, wetlands, gardens, or meadow.

*This 5-session program is:*

*\$75 per Member child,*

*\$90 per Non-member child*

### April RES Conference Day Programs

**April 5, 6, & 7, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

*Conference day fun for students during conference week.*

Join us for three afternoon programs, each day with a different theme. An Exploration Hike looking at different habitats while learning the 7 rules of hiking etiquette along the way. We will explore the wonderful world of owls, starting with a stuffed specimen, visiting a live owl here on the property and then investigating owl pellets. We will explore the world of honey bees and then search for other insects found on the property. Exciting rainy afternoon activities are also planned.

*This 3-session program is:*

*\$60 per Member child,*

*\$75 per Non-member child*

### April Break

**April, 11 - 14, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

It's time to get outside! Each day will have a different theme ranging from map and compass hikes, farm activities, celebration of Woodland Indians, wetland explorations, discovering our pollinators, and some fun take-home crafts. Exciting rainy-day activities are also planned.

*This 4-session program is:*

*\$180 per Member child,*

*\$220 per Non-member child*

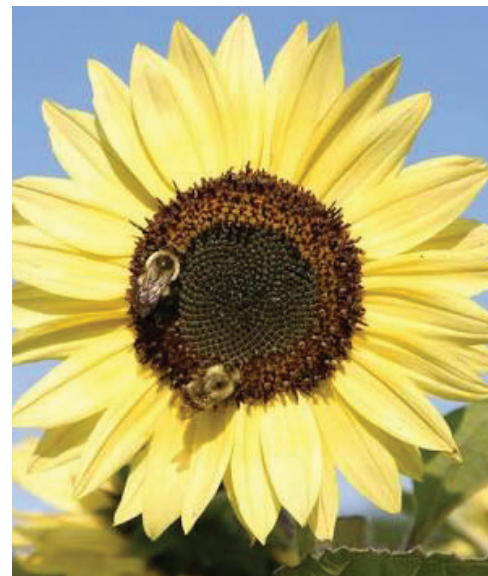
### Mother's Day Craft

**Wednesday, May 4, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Let's create a special gift for moms, a metal clad trinket box with a floral design!.

*Limited to 6 participants*

*\$12 per Member child, \$14 per Non-member child*



### Seeds to Plants

**Wednesday, May 18, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Now is the time to start your vegetable garden with seedlings. We will share instructions for tending your budding plants so you will be ready to transplant in late May. Then learn why it's so important to support our pollinators while also planting some sunflower seeds!

*\$12 per Member child, \$14 per Non-member child*

### Father's Day Craft

**Thursday, June 9, 4 PM - 5 PM**

Create a rustic woodland/nature themed game board for dad!

*Limited to 6 participants*

*\$12 per Member child, \$14 per Non-member child*

### Introduction to Yoga/Tai Chi

**Saturday, June 11, 12 PM - 1 PM**

Join Deby Goldenberg for a lesson that will show you how to use Tai Chi exercises to release stagnant energy, improve circulation, and train your brain using both left and right hemispheres equally. Have fun, use your voice to count out loud, breathe lots of fresh air and walk away feeling refreshed & energized!

*\$12 per Member child, \$14 per Non-member child*



# FAMILY PROGRAMS

## Owl Prowl

**Friday, February 18, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

“Whooh Cooks ForYou, Whooh Cooks forYou All?” is just one of the haunting calls that echoes through our nighttime woodlands at this time of year. Meet our resident Barred Owl and discover her fascinating adaptations. Then join us for an evening walk as you learn about other local owls and their calls so you can identify who’s hooting in your neighborhood.

*This program is weather dependent.*

*Space is limited.*

*\$10 per Member family, \$15 per Non-member family*



## Maple Syruping

**Saturday, February 26, 11 AM – 12 PM**

Have you ever wondered how maple syrup is made and if this might be something you could do at home? We will show each step of this sweet process and review the materials that you will need to make your own syrup at home. *Please dress for the weather, and masks are required while in the Syrup Shed.*

*Space is very limited.*

*\$15 per Member family, \$20 per Non-member family*



## Build a Bluebird House

**Saturday, February 26, 1 PM – 2:30 PM**

It is the perfect time to assemble a bluebird box for your yard! Once built, we will share details on the best placement, predator protection, and when to start watching for activity from one of our most beautiful songsters. *Please bring a hammer and a #2 Phillips screwdriver, all other materials will be provided.*

*Space is limited to 6 families (one box per family)*

*\$20 per Member family, \$25 per Non-member family*



## Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, March 5**

**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 very 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.

*Members only!*

*Reservations are required, seating is limited keeping social distancing in mind.*

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



## Astronomy - Viewing the Night Sky

**Saturdays, March 12, 7 PM – 8 PM**

**April 9, 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM**

**May 7, 8:45 PM – 9:45 PM**

Join our team of volunteer astronomers on Astronomy Hill for views of constellations, star clusters, planets, and more! After a short PowerPoint orientation, we will gaze through our telescopes and binoculars (masks and social distancing are required while using the scopes). This is an outdoor program, so please dress for the weather and bring a pair of binoculars, if you have them. Be prepared for a short walk from the parking lot to the Observatory out on Astronomy Hill, please bring a flashlight.

*\$8 per Member, \$10 per Non-member*

## Family Tai Chi

**Saturday, March 26, 12 PM – 1 PM**

Join Deby Goldenberg for a lesson that will show you how to use Tai Chi exercises to release stagnant energy, improve circulation, and train your brain using both left and right hemispheres equally. Have fun, use your voice to count out loud, breathe lots of fresh air and walk away feeling refreshed & energized!

*\$15 per Member Family, \$20 per Non-member family*

## Family Farm Chores

**Saturday, April 2, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

**Sunday, May 8, 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, then watch the milking process.

*Members only! \$15 per family*



## Peeper Patrol

**Friday, April 29 & Saturday, April 30**

**7 PM – 8:30 PM**

Put on your rubber boots and grab your 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 the marsh and surrounding wetlands for spring peepers, green frogs, pickerel frogs, and more! Be sure to check your flashlight batteries before coming.

*Members only! \$15 per family*

## Family Campout

**Friday, May 13, 6 PM**

Put on your rubber boots and grab your flashlight, Join Program Director, Tim Laughlin, for a family campout. Our fun-filled evening includes a night hike, making s'mores around a campfire, viewing constellations, and a celebration of our nocturnal neighbors prior to turning in for the night! Wake up with the sunrise, then join our farmer for morning chores, followed by a light breakfast.

*Members only! Bring your own tent (call if you need to borrow one of ours)*

*\$50 per family, space is limited*



# New Pond Farm Education Center

Box 116 • 101 Marchant Road  
West Redding, CT 06896

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 [www.newpondfarm.org](http://www.newpondfarm.org) or call the office at (203) 938-2117
- One-week cancellation required for 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.*

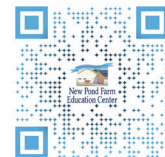
### Sustaining Membership\*:

- ☐ \$10/month    ☐ \$25/month  
☐ \$15/month    ☐ \$50/month  
☐ \$20/month    ☐ \$100/month  
☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

### Annual Membership:

- ☐ Individual ..... \$50    ☐ Patron ..... \$500  
☐ Family/Grandparents.. \$75    ☐ Sponsor ..... \$1,000  
☐ Supporter ..... \$100    ☐ Provider ..... \$2,500  
☐ Contributor ..... \$300    ☐ Guardian ..... \$5,000  
☐ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_



**Contributions may also be made online at [www.newpondfarm.org](http://www.newpondfarm.org)**

- ☐ Employer Matching Gift    ☐ Legacy Membership — Please call Ann Taylor 203-938-2117

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

Name(s) & Ages of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of receiving newsletters and calendars: ☐ E-mail    ☐ USPS    ☐ Both

☐ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_, please make check payable to **New Pond Farm**.

☐ Credit/Debit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ CVC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Billing address same as above. (If not, kindly provide)

