

Environmental Education Since 1985



New Pond Farm Education Center

FALL 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

This is such an exciting season with wildlife activities everywhere you look--our wild neighbors are busily preparing for winter. Pollinators of all shapes and sizes are gathering pollen from the asters and goldenrods in our gardens and along pasture edges. Waves of migrating songbirds are coming through. The fall is a wonderful time to visit our lower meadow where you may be greeted by ruby crowned kinglets, flitting to and fro in search of aphids, or you may observe palm warblers on the meadow pathways, recognizable by their "pumping tails", as they search for ants and spiders. Gaze skyward over the pastures on a sunny day and you may see kettles of broad-winged hawks circling, by the thousands, on their way to Mexico. It is the perfect time to be inspired by the natural world and to join our staff for outdoor adventures!

As you read through this calendar you will find exciting offerings for learners of all ages. We also hope that you will bring your family and friends to our Harvest Festival and Science and Nature Day on October 15. It will be loads of fun with sheep shearing, cow judging, black smithing, and horse-drawn hayrides. Our astronomy team will be here to help you gaze through our telescopes equipped with solar filters, and members of our Science Committee will show you the wonders of our weather station and weather cam. Not to be missed: at 2:30 Special Guest, Master Falconer, Brian Bradley will be here with his spectacular falcons, hawks and owls!

We can't wait to welcome you back!

With warmest regards,

Ann Taylor,
Executive Director

ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Science & Nature Day!

Saturday October 15, 11 AM - 4 PM
(Rain Date Sun. Oct. 16, 11AM - 3 PM)

We are so excited about the return of this fantastic family event! Join us for an exciting afternoon on the farm amidst the beautiful fall foliage. There will be historical demonstrations: blacksmithing, rope making, and broom making. There will be livestock encounters: wagon rides with a team of majestic draft horses, sheep shearing, visits with our cows and calves, and lessons about our fascinating honey bees. Try your hand at harvest crafts: create grapevine wreaths, decorate pumpkins, roll beeswax candles--and so much more! Science and Nature Fun: gaze through solar-filtered telescopes, learn how our weather station operates, and visit our encampment.



Special Guest!

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

(Rain Date: Sunday 2 PM - 3 PM)

Master falconer Brian Bradley from Skyhunters in Flight returns with his spectacular falcons, hawks, & owls to demonstrate their glorious adaptations and hunting skills as they soar and dive over the pastures!

*Falconry presentation is FREE
thanks to our friends at Meadow Ridge*



\$10 per person (3 years old and up) or \$30 per family (includes parking, 8 craft tickets)

There will be small fees for food and additional craft tickets.

No registration required. Please, no dogs.

Please check our website newpondfarm.org closer to the festival for exciting event updates.



At the Education Center, 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 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

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Fall & Winter Astronomy

**Saturdays, October 1, 7:30 PM,
November 5, 7 PM, December 17, 5:30 PM**

Join our knowledgeable team of enthusiastic volunteer astronomers on Astronomy Hill. After a short PowerPoint orientation, gaze through our telescopes and binoculars at constellations, star clusters, planets, and more! Be prepared for a short walk from the parking lot to the Observatory, please bring a flashlight and a pair of binoculars, if you have them.

Note: On October 1, we will have a first quarter moon which will allow us to enjoy views of Jupiter and the fall constellations. On November 5 we will be looking for the Andromeda Galaxy, Mars, Saturn, and Neptune. On December 17, we will be close to a quarter moon which will allow for great star gazing.

\$8 per member (\$16 max per member family)

\$10 per non-member (\$24 max per non-member family)



Annual Evening Woodland Walk

**Friday, October 21, Start times will run every 30 minutes starting at 4:30 PM
(Rain Date: Saturday, October 22)**

Wear Halloween costumes, if you'd like, and join our guides as you wind your way through our enchanted woodlands learning about our fascinating furred and feathered nocturnal neighbors. Some of our mounted specimens that you will encounter might include a raccoon, owl, skunk, fox, and even a bear! Glowing pumpkins and your guides will help to light your way. No tricks, just treats and delicious farm fresh hot chocolate! **Recommended for goblins ten and under.** All children must be accompanied by an adult. Guided walks are a little over an hour in length and leave every 30 minutes starting at 4:30 PM with the last group leaving at 7:30 PM.

Group sizes are limited.

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

(age 3 and under are free)

Introduction to Family Tai Chi

Saturday, October 8, 12 PM - 1 PM

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

This is an outdoor program, please dress for the weather.

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



Farmer for an Afternoon!

Sunday, November 6 or

Saturday, November 26, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Put on your work gloves and boots and get ready to help farmers Mike and Rachel with some afternoon chores. Collect eggs from the chicken coop and prep them for sale, meet our cows and watch the milking process, and get all of your questions answered about this unique process.

Members only, \$10 per family.

Limited to 3 families!



A Celebration of Woodland Indians

Saturday, November 12, 10 AM - 12 PM

Have you ever wondered how Woodland Indians lived out in nature all year-round? Join our staff for a wonderful morning as you visit our wigwam and longhouse, and learn how our native Americans created their homes, found and prepared their foods, made their clothes, and lived successfully throughout the seasons. Sit by the fire and enjoy maple syrup on freshly made cornbread, try traditional chores like grinding corn and scraping a deer hide, visit our museum and discover authentic hammerstones, projectile points, and more!

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



Caroling in the Barn with the Animals

**Friday December 2, 6 PM - 7 PM or
Saturday December 3, 5 PM - 6 PM**

Begin the holiday season on a joyous note. Join us in the main barn as we sit on hay bales surrounded by cows and sheep and are led in song by talented musicians. *Homemade cookies and farm fresh hot chocolate will be served*

Members only, seating is limited

\$10 per person (Children age 3 and under are free)

Family Wreath Making

Saturday, December 3, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

An assortment of fresh greens, holly, seed pods, ribbons, and adornments will be waiting for your family as you work together to create a one-of-a-kind wreath. Your final product is guaranteed to bring joy to the whole family during this festive season.

Wreath rings, fresh greens, and additional decorative items will be provided. Please bring your work gloves, clippers, and masks.

Limited to 6 families (One wreath per family).

\$70 per member family, \$80 per non-member family

Gingerbread Snow Globes

Saturday, December 10, 12 PM - 2:30 PM

Our infinitely talented board member, Deb Rakich, will help you to create an imaginative snow globe and fill it with your very own freshly baked gingerbread family and scenery, along with sugar crystal snow, and beautiful holiday ribbons for Christmas or Hanukkah. All materials will be provided.

\$40 per member family, \$50 per non-member family

Registration is required, spaces are limited.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

GRADES K-2 PROGRAMS

GRADES 3-5 PROGRAMS

THESE ARE DROP-OFF PROGRAMS (UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)



Stories & Outdoor Adventures for Toddlers & Young Children



Tuesdays September 27, 10 AM- 11 AM or October 25, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Join “Miss Lisa” from The Mark Twain Library, for stories about the Fall season, nature, or the farm. Then join a member of our staff for a program that brings the themes to life. All programs will be held outside when weather allows.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Group size is limited.

Each program is: \$8 per member child /adult team, \$10 per non-member child /adult team.



Nature Explorers

Tuesdays October 4, 11, & 18 , 1 PM – 2 PM

Drop off your preschooler for three afternoons of outdoor exploration and nature discoveries. They will reap the benefits of the time spent in nature as we explore the forest, fields, pond, and stream.

\$24 per member child, \$30 per non-member child

Winter Stories by the Fire

Saturday, December 17, 11 AM – 12 PM

Join our new Program Director, Emily Ciffone, for some great holiday stories down at the warming shed along with a few holiday refreshments.

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

Nature Explorers

Thursdays, October 6, October 13, & October 20, 3:30 PM – 5 PM

Join us for this 3-part series full of outdoor adventure. How we spend each afternoon will vary based on group interest—hikes, games, critter hunts, animal encounters, and campfires are just a few of the possibilities.

\$36 per member child, \$48 per non-member child

Fall Leaf Craft

Saturday, October 22, 10 AM – 11 AM

Join us as we gather an assortment of fall leaves to turn into colorful, creative nature collages.

\$8 per member child, \$12 per non-member child

Making Wildlife Feeders

Saturday, October 29, 10 AM – 11 AM

Come build a simple wildlife feeder! Together we will drill holes and fill them with a tasty and nutritious treat. Take your feeder home to feed the bluejays, chickadees, nuthatches, squirrels, and other creatures in your neighborhood. **Note: nuts and nut products will be used during this program.**

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



Nature Prepares for Winter

Saturday, November 5, 10 AM – 11 AM

Skunks, bears, foxes, and other wild neighbors are busy preparing for the cold weather ahead. Discover some of the clever strategies they use to survive the harsh winter and then meet some of our reptiles and amphibians in our animal room!

\$8 per member child, \$12 per non-member child

Space is limited.

Nature Explorers

Wednesdays September 28, October 5, & October 12, 3:30 PM – 5 PM

Join us for this 3-part series full of outdoor adventure. How we spend each afternoon will vary based on group interest – hikes, games, critter hunts, animal encounters, and campfires are just a few of the possibilities.

\$24 per member child, \$36 per non-member child



Annual Pumpkin Carving & Decorating

Wednesday, October 19, 4 PM – 5 PM

Join a member of our staff as we help you tap into your creative skills to carve and/or decorate a unique Halloween pumpkin to take home.

All materials, including pumpkins, will be provided.

\$10 per Member Child, \$14 per Non-member Child

Children's Introduction to Tai Chi

Saturday, October 22, 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 to use left and right hemispheres equally. Have fun, use your voice to count out loud, breathe lots of fresh air and walk away feeling refreshed and energized! **This is an outdoor program, please dress for the weather.**

\$8 per member child, \$12 per non-member child

Festive Seasonal Crafts

Saturday, December 3, 10 AM – 11 AM

Join us as we create traditional garlands, enchanting snowmen and gnomes. It's sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit! All materials will be provided.

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

PROGRAMS DURING R.E.S CONFERENCES



JOIN US FOR FOUR-PART PROGRAMS, WITH FUN-FILLED AFTERNOONS OF ACTIVITIES! ALL PROGRAMS ARE 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM.

Adventures in Science

Tuesday, November 15

Calling all budding scientists! Join us for an afternoon exploring basic principles in chemistry and physics while we build and launch homemade rockets. We will be using common household materials so you can continue the fun at home.

Animal Adventures

Wednesday, November 16

Get hands-on with some of our live animals. We will spend the afternoon learning how to handle, feed, and provide enrichment for our reptile friends.

Outdoor Adventures

Thursday, November 17

With binoculars, collection boxes, and field guides in hand, we will spend the afternoon searching for some of the animals that call our property home. As a group, we'll decide if we want to scoop on the pond, dig through the leaf litter, search trees, scan the skies or better yet, do them all!

Art is an Adventure

Friday, November 18

Together we will hunt the property for materials we can use to create unique pieces of art. Creativity leads the way as we turn sticks, stones, feathers, bark, and other treasures into one-of-a-kind nature art.

*This four part series is: \$64 per member child, \$80 per non-member child
Group size is limited and programs will be held outside weather permitting,
if needed, we will move inside due to unfavorable weather.*

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Animal Care Workshop!

**Tuesday, October 11 or
Tuesday, October 18, 4:15 PM - 5 PM**

Join a member of our staff for an introduction to feeding and handling a selection of friends from 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 after school or on weekends, come see what's involved..

FREE — Participants under 18 years old must come with a parent or guardian.

Space is limited to 2 child/adult teams.

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 Denny at gwen@newpondfarm.org.



Cyanotype Prints

Saturday, October 29, 1 PM - 2 PM

Come experiment with an early form of printmaking called cyanotype. With a few simple chemicals and water, we will create a light-sensitive solution that is the basis for our art. Using natural materials we collect together, we will capture their silhouettes on paper, fabric, and wood.

*\$10 per member, \$14 per non-member
Space is limited.*

ADULT PROGRAMS



Annual Mushroom Walk

**Sunday, September 25,
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

Enjoy a woodland walk as you search for mushrooms with Joe & Kathy Brandt and other amateur mycologists from the *Connecticut - Westchester Mycological Association*. Learn how to identify the mushrooms that have been collected and complete your adventure by enjoying delectable samples - all safely prepared by Joe and Kathy.

Free, but registration is required.



Knitting & Spinning by the Fire

**Sundays October 2, November 6,
December 4, & February 5, March 5,
12 PM - 3 PM**

Bring your knitting projects and spinning wheels and enjoy relaxing afternoons with talented members from the *Nutmeg Western CT Spinners Guild* who will coach you on your knitting challenges and invite you to try your hand at spinning. Beautiful skeins of yarn from New Pond Farm's Romney flock will be available for sale.

Registration is required, please join us for each meeting, one meeting, or anything in-between!

This program is free, but donations in support of our fleecy flock will be welcomed!



Transforming Store-Bought Flowers into Glorious Bouquets & Arrangements

Tuesday, October 11, 6 PM - 7 PM

Join florist Sue Bull for this inspiring program. Learn how to condition and prepare flowers - a very important step that increases vase life. Discover how to create breathtaking hand-tied bouquets, a new trendy technique that can be used in many applications. Your end product could be a gift for a friend, a bouquet for the teacher, or a beautiful arrangement for your home!

Limited to 6 participants

\$45 per member, \$50 per non-member



Connecticut's Changing Landscape is Impacting Wildlife Here in Connecticut

Wednesday, October 12, 7 PM - 8 PM

Connecticut's landscape is always changing. Many residents wonder why they are seeing more black bears and bobcats than ever before. Join DEEP Wildlife Division Outreach Biologist Paul Benjunas and learn how Connecticut's land use has influenced certain wildlife populations over time.

This program is free, but we ask you to consider making a contribution to the DEEP Wildlife Division so they can continue doing this important work.



Wreath Making

**Wednesday, November 30 or Thursday,
December 1, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

Fresh greens, pinecones, pods, bows, frames, and expert hands will be here to greet you. Join us in our Learning Center and make your spectacular one-of-a-kind evergreen wreath—from scratch! Please bring a pair of work gloves and clippers. Light refreshments will be served.

\$70 per member, \$80 per non-member

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 15
(Rain Date: October 16)

After school help in Our Wildlife Room

Please contact Ann Taylor for more information: ann@newpondfarm.org

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



New Pond Farm Education Center

Box 116 • 101 Marchant Road
West Redding, CT 06896

For exciting member benefit information, please visit our website at newpondfarm.org

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Please come over to check us out!

We hope you will be inspired by our programs, our property, and our wonderful staff members and want to join our family of supporters!

As members: our property is open to you from dawn to dusk (winter hours 10 AM to 4 PM)

Members are invited to hike the trails, cross-country ski/snowshoe around the pastures, or sled down Astronomy Hill. Because of safety concerns, we do not allow skating. Anyone under 18-years-old must be accompanied by a parent.

Please call to let us know you are coming. Park at the Learning Center. No dogs, please.

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 \$_____

Annual Membership:

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

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

Contributions may also be made online at www.newpondfarm.org

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



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

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

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) _____