

Environmental Education Since 1985



New Pond Farm Education Center

WINTER/SPRING 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! This is such an exciting time at New Pond—a new year, new programs, and new special events. We can't wait to share them with you.

Working with our staff and special guests, Program Director, Emily Ciffone, has put together a calendar, brimming with fantastic experiences for one and all! Whether you like campouts, stargazing, night hikes, and birding, or if you are interested in tips for living more sustainably, learning more about spring ephemerals, or how to make your own glorious bark basket--we've got you covered!

We are also delighted to announce that our treasured artist-in-residence, Kris Holm, is organizing an Invitational Art Show in June. This ninth biennial event will showcase artwork by the region's finest artists, and include a silent auction, a bird carving workshop, art demonstrations and activities for children and adults, all celebrating the timeless themes of nature and agrarian life inspired by New Pond Farm.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Thank you for your wonderful support.

With warmest regards,

Ann Taylor,
Executive Director

SPECIAL EVENTS

Old Fashioned Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(Rain Date: April 8)

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 Only!
Space is limited. \$15 per child



Art Show and Preview Party

Special Preview: Friday, June 2, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Visit the art show and mingle with artists and art lovers while enjoying a Signature Cocktail, Local Wine, Brews, and Festive Bites.

\$50 admits one (includes a \$25 art purchase credit)

\$100 admits two (includes a \$50 art purchase credit)

RSVP by May 25.

Daily Gallery Hours: June 3-11, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

This fantastic biennial event will showcase artwork by some of the region's finest artists. With paint and canvas, pencil and paper, wood, metal, or clay, their creativity will transform the enduring themes of nature and farm into beautiful works of art. Throughout "Art Week" there will be a silent auction, art demonstrations, plein air painting, and activities for children and adults. All art is for sale with proceeds to benefit our programs.

Free admission to the Gallery, Auction, Demonstrations, Lectures and Classes
More details will be on our website as the Art Show draws near

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

ADULT PROGRAMS



Knitting and Spinning by the Fire

**Sundays, February 5 & March 5,
April 2, & May 7, 12:00 PM - 3:00 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.

Free. Registration is required. Donations in support of our fleecy flock will be welcomed!



Composting at Home

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

There's gold in your kitchen scraps, black gold! Join Master Composter Alice Ely and learn how to turn your food waste into a nutrient rich resource you can use in and around your home. In this informative presentation you will learn about various composting methods and how you can easily begin composting at home.

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

This program is underwritten by the Schroeder Education Fund.



Sip and Succulent Workshop

Friday, February 24, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Join plant stylist and visual storyteller Elissa Capentankis from Imaginariums by Elissa for an evening of inspiration, creativity and connection as you create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind succulent arrangement. Bring a friend or family member, or come alone and meet other enthusiastic designers as you spend the evening learning and sharing. Light refreshments will be served.

\$65 per member, \$70 per non-member



Backyard Syruping Workshop

Saturday, February 25, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Have you ever wanted to make your own maple syrup? Let us teach you each step of this sweet process and review the materials needed in backyard production. Please dress for the outdoors!

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



Basketry Workshop

Sunday, March 12, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Discover the beauty of birch bark in this full day, intermediate basketry workshop with Barry Keegan. Barry is a primitive skills specialist and long-time friend of New Pond Farm. Participants will make their own medium, box-type birch basket with cut and sewn sides and a sewn-on rim. Fire will be used to bend and shape the bark.

Open to anyone ages 15+.

\$45 per member, \$55 per non-member

This program is underwritten by the Sally Trippe Fund.



Connecticut's Reptiles

Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join DEEP Wildlife Division Outreach Biologist Paul Benjunaas to learn about the natural history and current research efforts surrounding Connecticut's reptiles. Not sure what a reptile is exactly? This is the perfect opportunity to find out!

Free. Registration is required.

ADULT PROGRAMS



Spring Migration: Birding with Joe Bear

Fridays, April 14 Or May 5
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Catch the Spring migration by joining expert birder and environmentalist Joe Bear, on a leisurely 2-hour walk through our diverse habitats. We'll search in open fields, woodlands, and wetlands - seeking out returning Summer residents as well as those on their way to northern nesting grounds.

Free. Registration is required.

Wildflower Ramble & Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday April 25, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
(Rain Date: April 26)

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.

Honey Tasting with NPF Beekeeper Ann Murray

Saturday, May 6, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Join NPF Apiary Manager, Ann Murray, for a tasty exploration of one of the most popular products of the beehive — honey! Our honey bees forage on many different types of flowers throughout the spring, summer, and fall. As the floral sources change, so does the flavor of their treasured honey. We will discuss the differing nectar sources of several local honeys as we taste our way through this program!

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



Birding & Breakfast with Miley Bull

Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
(Rain Date: May 11)

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



Pollinator Garden Tour & Tea

Tuesday, June 6, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Take a break from your busy schedule and spend an afternoon visiting our farmhouse gardens. Enjoy our Fred Schroeder Pollinator Garden, brimming with native plantings, visiting bees and butterflies. Tour our Shakespeare and Herb Gardens, and share iced tea, lemonade, and homemade treats in our shade garden which will be filled with blooming hellebores.

Free for Members, registration is required

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Astronomy- Viewing the Night Sky

Saturdays, January 28, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
February 25, 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM
March 25, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
April 22, 8:45 PM - 9:45 PM
May, Telescope Clinic, stay tuned for details

Join our knowledgeable team of volunteer astronomers on Astronomy Hill for views of constellations, star clusters, planets, and more! Gaze through the telescopes, hear stories about the stars, watch a short slide presentation, ask deep questions and connect with other night sky enthusiasts. *This is an outdoor program, so please dress for the weather and be prepared for a short walk from the parking lot out to the Observatory.*

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



Family Farm Chores

February 12, March 11, April 16,
May 13, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Dress for the outdoors and join farmers Mike and Rachel as they complete daily farm chores. Get a first hand look at everything it takes to keep our chickens, sheep and cows happy and healthy. After watching the milking process you might consider visiting the Dairy Annex to take home a delicious after-chores dairy treat.

Members only! \$10 per family

FAMILY PROGRAMS



From Prep to Plate – Yogurt Dip Recipe Challenge

Saturday, February 25, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

Challenge your family's creativity in the kitchen with this hands-on workshop! Join Registered Dietitian Jessica Pelletier, and learn the various benefits of dairy products, experience how New Pond Farm's fresh yogurt is made, and showcase your creativity in the kitchen with a yogurt-based dip challenge. Participants will work in teams to prepare, experiment with, and share their delicious yogurt dip which incorporates farm fresh foods.

\$25 per Member family, \$30 per Non-member family



Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, March 4, Seating times:
8:30, 9:00, 9:30, & 10:00 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! \$10 per person, children 3 and under are free (\$30 max. per member family)

Big Moon Night Hike

Friday, March 10, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Join us as we hike up the Summit Trail and explore the woodlands at night. With an almost full moon, we'll look and listen for nighttime creatures while also enjoying the unique beauty of the forest at night.

Members only! \$15 per member family

Gardening Basics: Drop-In Programs

Saturday, March 18:

Planting Cold Weather Crops

Saturday May 27: Spring Planting

**Saturday June 10: Garden Tasks: Feeding,
Staking, Thinning and more**

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Stop by New Pond Farm's vegetable garden to learn some of the many ways you can grow food for you and your family. Each session will focus on a different topic. Come just to observe and ask questions, or get your hands dirty and help out.

Free

Spring Equinox Campfire

Monday, March 20, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Join us around the campfire as we celebrate the Spring Equinox with treats and stories. We will consider what the change of seasons means for the natural world and share what it means to us.

Members only! *Free. Registration is required.*



Peeper Patrol

**Friday, April 28, Saturday April 29,
7:00 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

**Saturday, May 20, 6:00 PM –
Sunday, May 21, 11:00 AM**

Join Program Director Emily Clifone for a family campout. Our fun-filled evening includes a night hike, treats around a campfire, viewing the night sky, and a celebration of our nocturnal neighbors! Wake up with the sunrise, then join our farmer for morning chores, followed by a light breakfast.

Members only! \$75 per family, space is limited

World Turtle Day Celebration – Animal Meet and Greet

**Tuesday, May 23, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
OR 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Join us in a celebration of the world's turtles. Come meet our resident turtles and tortoises and learn what makes each of them special.

Free. Registration is required.



Visit-A-Hive

Take a Personal Tour of a Honeybee Hive! Put on bee suits and join our resident beekeeper, Ann Murray, as she inspects one of our working hives! Ann is an inspirational educator and a longtime champion of honeybees. In this one-hour program you are guaranteed to be fascinated by these hardworking pollinators! This program is available for a parent and up to three family members. Timing will be arranged.

Members Only! \$50 per member family. If you are interested in participating in this program, please email us at info@newpondfarm.org.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Succulents: Terrarium Workshop

Saturday, March 4, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Use your creativity and imagination to design your own terrarium using succulents and other natural materials. Plant stylist Elissa Capetanakis, from Imaginariums by Elissa, will lead you through the steps to create a beautiful, healthy, unique arrangement.

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

This program is underwritten by the Schroeder Education Fund.

Junior Staff: Animal Caretaker

Saturdays, January 28, February 25, March 18, April 29, May 13, June 10 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Love animals? Come learn the ins and outs of our animal care. Focused on our resident reptiles and amphibians, this is a hands-on program and Jr. Staff will help with feedings, cleanings, health checks, enrichment, and more. Join us for 1 Saturday, all 6, or any number in between!

Free for members. Registration is required.

\$10 per day for non-members



Cyanotype Prints

Saturday, June 3, 2:00 PM - 3:00 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.

\$15 for members, \$20 for non-members

EARLY DISMISSAL & APRIL BREAK PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Reptile Roundup

Thursday, February 16, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Spend the afternoon with New Pond Farm's resident reptiles. With a focus on our turtles, snakes and lizards, we'll spend our time learning what makes each special. Participants will try their hand at basic animal care duties such as making salads, weighing animals and providing enrichment.

\$30 per member child, \$40 per non-member child

February Break Program

Friday, February 17, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Get hands-on with some of our live animals. Spend the morning with friends exploring the 102 acres of woodlands and pastures at New Pond Farm. We'll hike through the forest, scramble over rocks, build shelters, go sledding (keep your fingers crossed!) and enjoy treats around the campfire.

\$45 per member child, \$60 per non-member child

April Early Dismissal Day Programs

April 4, 5 and 6, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

School's out early, why not spend the afternoon at New Pond Farm? Each afternoon will have a different theme, sign up for one, two or all three days.

April 4 - Birds in the Forest

April 5 - Turtles at the Pond

April 6 - Bugs in the Garden

\$30 per day per member child,

\$40 per day per non-member child

April Break Program

April 11 - 14, 4 days, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

This 4-part program focuses on Outdoor Skills and Adventure. Throughout the week participants will learn how to create shelters, read maps, track animals, build fires, tie knots and so much more!

\$180 per member child,

\$240 per non-member child

SUMMER CAMP

REGISTRATION OPENS: Tuesday, February 14 at 9:30 AM

Monday, June 26 - Friday, August 4, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM



Six one-week sessions are available for children entering grades 1 through 6.

June 26-30, July 3-7 (no camp 7/4), July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28, July 31-August 4

Get ready for another summer filled with fun and adventure at New Pond Farm! Our 102-acre outdoor classroom, with its woodlands, wetlands, meadow, and barnyard, will be ours to explore! Each day will bring new hands-on, outdoor adventures. Favorite camp activities include exploring the stream for crayfish, hunting at the pond for tadpoles, visiting the cows in the barn, harvesting veggies in the garden, hiking the trails, creating nature art and so much more! This program will also include swimming in our pool under the supervision of a certified lifeguard.

Summer Camp is held outdoors, rain or shine. We will go indoors in cases of extreme weather.

\$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 bring a bagged lunch)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



STEM at New Pond Farm, Grades 1-4

**Saturdays, January 28, February 18,
March 18, April 29, May 13,
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

A new monthly program for elementary school students! Together we will ask questions and search for answers through observation, investigation and experimentation. Growing crystals, launching rockets, designing dams and building simple machines are just some of the possible projects we'll tackle.

*\$15 per day per member child,
\$20 per day per non-member child*



Animal Care Club Grades 2-4

**Tuesdays, 6 week session
January 31 - March 7, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

Did you know New Pond Farm has more than farm animals? Join the Animal Care Club and learn how to care for the many reptiles and amphibians that live in the Learning Center. Animal Care Club members will make salads for turtles, clean enclosures for snakes, exercise lizards, wrangle crickets for frogs and much more!

\$90 per member child, \$120 per non-member child



Nature Explorers Grades K-2

**Thursdays, 3 times per month
February 2, 9, 23, March 9, 16, 23,
April 6, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18,
June 1, 8, 15, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

Join us for this monthly 3-part series full of outdoor nature adventures. Each week we will explore the property and make exciting discoveries in our woodlands, wetlands, gardens, or meadow. 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. Our focus is outdoor play and child-led exploration.

Register monthly .
\$36 per member child, \$45 per non-member child



Valentine's Day Treats Grades 2-4

Saturday, February 11, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Come learn to make some sweet and tasty valentines treats. Children will be making several edible Valentine's Day gifts. Any one of these will surely touch the heart and stomach of its recipient!

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



Easter Egg Trees

Tuesday, March 28, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Create your own beautiful tree as you decorate hand-blown eggs. This is a perfect decoration for your spring table.

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

Mother's Day Craft Grades 2-4

Wednesday, May 10, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Shhh, it's a surprise! Let us help your child create a special gift for that special someone this coming Mother's Day.

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

Father's Day Craft Grades 2-4

Wednesday, June 7, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Shhh, it's a surprise! Let us help your child create a special gift for that special someone this coming Father's Day.

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

Calling all Snowshoe-ers

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 borrow while on the property. If you'd like to learn more about this or to be on our "Call List" for impromptu guided snowshoeing walks, please email our Program Director Emily Ciffone at emily@newpondfarm.org.

TODDLER / PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Storytime for Children with Adults, Ages 1 - 5

**Tuesdays, February 14, March 14,
April 18, May 9, June 13,
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM OR 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM**

Join us each month for nature stories and related activities as we explore the seasons at New Pond Farm. Activities may include live animal encounters, nature crafts, walks on the property and more. Morning and afternoon options available. Programs will be outdoors except in cases of extreme weather.

*\$10 per member child, \$15 per non-member child
Siblings under 1 are free*



Nature Explorers Ages 3-5, drop-off

**Thursdays, 3 times per month
February 2, 9, 23, March 9, 16, 23,
April 6, 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18,
June 1, 8, 15, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

Join us for this monthly 3-part series full of outdoor nature adventures. Each week we will explore the property and make exciting discoveries in our woodlands, wetlands, gardens, or meadow. 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. Our focus is on outdoor play and child-led exploration.

Register monthly.

\$36 per member child, \$45 per non-member child



NEW! Caregiver & Child Series, for Children Ages 18 - 35 months

Fridays 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Winter Session - 6 weeks:
February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Spring Session - 6 weeks:
April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26**

A new weekly caregiver and child program for our youngest members. Each week we will gather outdoors and spend 90 minutes connecting with nature and one another through free play, exploratory walks, live animal encounters, nature crafts and seasonal stories. *This program is held entirely outdoors except in cases of extreme weather.*

\$135 per session per member child/adult pair,

\$165 per session per non-member child/adult pair



New Pond Farm Education Center

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 4

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1

Wildlife Room Feeders:

Afterschool or Weekends

For more information please contact
Emily Ciffone (emily@newpondfarm.org).

WE'RE HIRING!

Are you a college student or college graduate who loves children, nature, and the outdoors? Or know someone who is? Join our Summer Camp Team and spend your days alongside other enthusiastic staff sharing the wonders of the natural world with campers ages 6-12. To learn more, please contact Emily Ciffone at emily@newpondfarm.org.

ADVENTURE BIRTHDAY PARTIES



Naturalists, Explorers, & Adventurers!

With 102-acres of diverse habitats and unique resources including a 19th century barn, maple syruping shed, authentically recreated Native American encampment, busy barnyard with a variety of livestock, and an animal room full of reptiles, this is an exciting place to celebrate a birthday. Tailored to the age and interest of the birthday child, our birthday parties are fun, hands-on, educational, and unforgettable thanks to our experienced and enthusiastic program staff.

To learn more about our many options or to check availability, please contact Gwen Denny at 203-938-2117 or gwen@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

WE'RE OPEN TO MEMBERS

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

Members are invited to hike the trails, cross-
country ski/snowshoe around the pastures,
or sled down Astronomy Hill. Sorry, no
skating on the pond or marsh.

Anyone under 18-years-old must be
accompanied by an adult. Please call to let
us know you are coming and park at the
Learning Center. No dogs, please.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Please come for a visit!

We hope our property, our programs,
and our wonderful staff will inspire you to
join our family of supporters! Up-to-date
Membership information may be found on
our website: newpondfarm.org

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.



**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

DON'T MISS ANYTHING!

Visit us on Facebook or Instagram.
[@newpondfarm](https://www.instagram.com/newpondfarm)



info@newpondfarm.org