



New Pond Farm Education Center

FALL/WINTER 2023 - 2024

Dear Members and Friends,

This is such an exciting time of year, filled with dramatic seasonal changes. It is the perfect time to join our staff for inspirational outdoor adventures and discoveries.

As you read through this calendar you will find opportunities for everyone. Whether you are interested in outdoor adventures, science, culinary delights, crafting, indoor gardening, or personal health — we have something special for you!

We are also delighted to share our holiday favorites such as Wreath Making, Gingerbread Snow Globes, and Caroling in the Barn with the Animals. This year's Caroling, for NPPEC Members, is not to be missed. Our talented members, Amy Cabot and Joe Pampel, will begin our celebration, Rita Caruso and her entire musical family are traveling back from Rhode Island to lead us all in song, and the incomparable Fred Newman will conclude the weekend with his unique musical talents, good humor, and stories.

Please bring your family and friends to our Harvest Festival - Science and Nature Day on October 14 (rain date 15). It will be loads of fun for one and all--details are in the calendar.

We can't wait to welcome you back!

With warmest regards,

Ann Taylor

Ann Taylor,
Executive Director

ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Science and Nature Day!

Saturday, October 14, 11 AM - 4 PM

(Rain Date: Sunday, October 15)

Join us for an exciting afternoon on the farm amidst the beautiful fall foliage. This fantastic family event will include historical demonstrations such as broom making and fleece spinning. There will be livestock encounters- sheep shearing, cow judging, visits with our calves, and lessons about our fascinating honeybees. 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 and watch the partial eclipse through safety glasses, learn how our weather station operates, visit our native American encampment, and learn about our Wetland Renovation Project!



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, and owls to demonstrate their glorious adaptations and hunting skills as they soar and dive over the pastures!



\$20 per carload (includes parking and many free activities).

There will be small fees for food and craft tickets.

No registration required. Please, no dogs.

Please check our website for exciting event updates at newpondfarm.org.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS



Knitting & Spinning by the Fire

Sundays, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Check website for dates

Bring your knitting projects or 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 are welcomed!



Lights Out CT: A Bird's Eye View

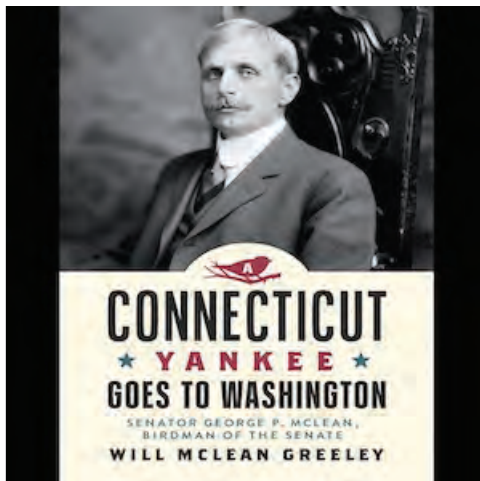
Co-sponsored with the Mark Twain Library

Thursday, September 7, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Millions of birds pass through Connecticut every fall and spring on their way to summer nesting grounds and winter habitats. Light pollution is disrupting this critical migration pattern and endangering birds on the Atlantic Flyway. Join Craig Repasz, co-founder and co-chair of Lights Out Connecticut, to learn how reducing artificial light during peak periods of bird migration can make a big difference for migrating birds looking for safe passage through Connecticut.

This is a hybrid program that will take place both live at the Library, and virtually over Zoom.

Free. Register through the Mark Twain Library at marktwainlibrary.org/events



Birdman of the Senate: Author Event with Will Greeley (Virtual)

Co-sponsored with the Mark Twain Library

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Connecticut Yankee Goes to Washington:

Senator George P. McLean, Birdman of the Senate

In this well-researched and lively account, author Will Greeley focuses on the crowning achievement of one of his distant relatives — Senator George P. McLean, who represented the state in the early 1900s and whose conservation efforts led to groundbreaking legislation that saved billions of birds from senseless killing and likely prevented the extinction of entire bird species.

This is a virtual event that will take place over Zoom.

Free. Register through the Mark Twain Library at marktwainlibrary.org/events



Annual Mushroom Walk

Sunday, September 24, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Enjoy a woodland walk as you search for mushrooms with Joe and 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. Registration is required.



Sky Science: Solar Eclipses

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Both an annular and total solar eclipse are on the near horizon for many folks in the United States. Come join us as Brian Luzietti, Joel Barlow High School's astronomy teacher, provides us with a lecture and activity that demonstrates just how rare and special both events are. With a little science, you will be sure to add a deep sense of appreciation to these already awesome spectacles. See you there!

Appropriate for students in grades 6 and up.

Free. Registration is required.



Fall Migration:

Birding with Joe Bear

Saturday, September 30, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Wednesday, October 11, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Catch the Fall migration by joining expert birder and environmentalist Joe Bear, on a leisurely 2-hour walk through our diverse habitats. We will search in open fields, woodlands, and wetlands - seeking out those on their way to winter feeding grounds.

Free. Registration is required.

Come Snowshoe with Us!

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.

ADULT PROGRAMS



Harvesting Strength: A New Pond Farm Yoga Series

Tuesdays, October 10, 17, 24
10 AM - 11:00 AM

As the trees gracefully shed their leaves, we invite you to let go of what no longer serves you, and in the process, reconnect with your body and mind. Immerse yourself in the transformative energy of fall with three invigorating yoga sessions. Each class will be an exploration of breathwork, grounding poses, and meditative movement, suitable for all levels. In a season of change, we have the opportunity to strengthen our roots and flourish in the present. What better way to do this than in community at New Pond Farm?

No prior experience necessary.

Each program is \$20 per member, \$25 per non-member

Our instructor, Kathryn Gramigna Sabath, is a dedicated yoga teacher and an MSW Candidate at Columbia University, with a special interest in enhancing family wellness. With a deep understanding of mindful movement and the transformative potential of yoga, Kat teaches yoga to students of all levels, encouraging participants to embrace challenges and explore their inner selves.



Wreath Making

Wednesday, November 29 or
Thursday, November 30, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Saturday, December 2, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Fresh greens, pine cones, 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.

Each program is \$70 per member, \$80 per non-member

COMING THIS WINTER!



Talking Trash

Confused about what goes in the trash can versus the recycling bin? Wondering what you can do with your family's food waste? Come get these answers and more while learning the ins and outs of solid waste management in Connecticut. With a representative from the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA) here to share their knowledge and answer your questions, you will leave with the knowledge on how to reduce waste, save money, and help the planet.



Rewilding Your Yard

Interested in rewilding your yard? Unsure about what is involved or where to start? Join local naturalists Cathy Smith and Joe Bear as they walk you through the steps to creating a healthy, nature-friendly area on your property.



Have an idea for a program you would like to see us offer? Let us know! Please contact our Program Director at emily@newpondfarm.org

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Astronomy- Viewing the Night Sky

September 30, October 20, November 4
December 16, January 6

Check website for times

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.

Each program is \$8 per member, \$10 per non-member



Family Farm Chores

September 17, October 7, November 19
December 23, January 14, 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! Each program is \$10 per family

National Reptile Day - Animal Meet and Greet

Sunday, October 22, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
or 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us in a celebration of the world's reptiles. Meet some of our resident turtles, snakes, and lizards and learn what makes each of them special.

Free for members! \$10 per non-member family

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Evening Woodland Walk

Friday, October 27. Walks will leave every 30 minutes beginning at 4:30 PM
(Rain date: Saturday, October 28)

Join our guides as you wind your way through our enchanted woodlands learning about our fascinating furry and feathered nocturnal neighbors. Some of the mounted specimens you may encounter include a raccoon, owl, skunk, fox, or even a bear. Glowing pumpkins and friendly guides will help light your way. No tricks, just treats and delicious farm fresh hot chocolate!

Recommended for children ten and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Guided walks are approximately an hour in length and leave every 30 minutes starting at 4:30 PM with the last group heading out at 7:30 PM

Group sizes limited.

*\$12 per member, \$15 per non-member
(children age 3 and under are free)*



A Celebration of Connecticut Woodland Indians

Saturday, November 4
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Have you ever wondered how Woodland Indians lived out in nature all year round? Come learn how local Native Americans created their homes, found and prepared foods, made their clothes, and lived successfully through the seasons. Sit by the fire at our encampment surrounded by a wigwam and longhouse, enjoy maple syrup on freshly baked cornbread, and 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 1, 6 PM - 7 PM
Saturday, December 2, 5 PM - 6 PM
Sunday, 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 member
(Children age 3 and under are free)



Family Wreath Making

Saturday, December 2, 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. Please bring work gloves and clippers.

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



Gingerbread Snow Globes

Saturday, December 3, 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM
or 12:30 PM - 3:00 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.

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

Winter Solstice Family Campfire

Thursday, December 21, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us as we celebrate the Winter Solstice with a warm fire, hot chocolate and tasty treats. As we reflect on the coming winter season, we will share what shorter, colder days mean for us and the world around us.

Members only! Free. Registration is required.



From Prep to Plate – Dairy Delights

Saturday, January 27, 2:30 - 4:30 PM Yogurt
Saturday, February 10, 2:30 - 4:30 PM Butter
Saturday, February 24, 2:30 - 4:30 PM Cheese

Challenge your family's creativity in the kitchen with these hands-on workshops! Join Registered Dietician Jessica Pelletier, and learn the many benefits of dairy products while preparing, experimenting with, and tasting delicious yogurts, butters, and cheeses made with milk from New Pond Farm's dairy herd.

*Each program is \$30 per member family,
\$35 per non-member family*

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Junior Staff: Animal Caretaker

**Saturdays: October 28, November 18
December 9, January 20
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM**

Love animals? Come learn the ins and outs of animal care. Focused on our resident reptiles and amphibians, this hands-on program will have Jr. Staff helping with feedings, cleanings, health checks, enrichment and more. Sign up for 1 Saturday, all 4, or any number in between!

Free for members, \$10 per non-member



In the Kitchen, Seasonal Baking

**Saturday, November 4
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Mini Pies**

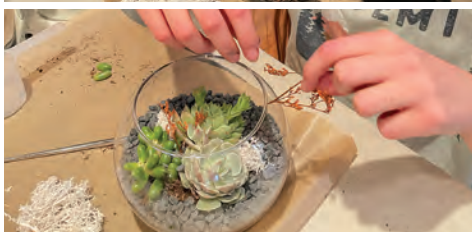
**Sunday, December 17
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Holiday Chocolates**

**Saturday, January 20
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Winter Breads**

**Sunday, February 11
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Valentine Treats**

Come practice your cooking skills while making, tasting, and taking home delicious seasonal treats.

Each program is \$25 per member, \$30 per non-member



Succulents: Terrarium Workshop

Sunday, November 12, 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.

\$25 per member, \$30 per non-member

*This program is underwritten by the
Schroeder Education Fund.*



Needle Felting

Sunday, January 7, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

In this workshop, you will learn to make simple felted animals using wool roving and felting needles.

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

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

**Harvest Festival —
Nature and Science Day!
Saturday, October 14 (rain date 15)**

**Animal Room Feeders
After school or Weekends**

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

ADVENTURE BIRTHDAY PARTIES



Discoverers, 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.*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



Outdoor Adventurers, Grades 3-5

Tuesdays, 3 times per month
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

October 3, 10, 17, November 7, 14, 21
December 5, 12, 19, January 9, 16, 23

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, shelter building, critter hunts, animal encounters, and campfires are just a few of the possibilities. Our focus is on child-led, outdoor exploration.

Register monthly.

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



Nature Explorers, Grades K-2

Thursdays, 3 times per month,
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

October 5, 12, 19, November 2, 9, 16
December 7, 14, 21, January 11, 18, 25

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 child-led, outdoor play.

Register monthly.

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



Making Wildlife Feeders, Grades 1-5

Sunday, November 5, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Come build simple wildlife feeders! Using logs, sticks, pinecones and string, together we will create an assortment of feeders filled with tasty treats. 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.

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



Pumpkin Carving, Grades 3-5

Tuesday, October 24, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Join us for an hour of jack-o-lantern fun. Together we will choose pumpkins, scoop seeds, and use our creativity to carve Halloween pumpkins. Whether spooky or silly, your pumpkin will be unique and ready to take home!

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

STEM at New Pond Farm, Grades K-3

Saturdays, October 28, November 18
December 9, January 20
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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 will tackle.

October - Fun with Physics
November - Chemistry is King
December - Simple Machines
January - Geology Rocks

*Each program is \$15 per member child,
\$20 per non-member child*



Early Dismissal Days, Grades K-4

November 14 - 17, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

School's out early, why not spend the afternoon at New Pond Farm? Each afternoon will have a different theme that includes both indoor and outdoor, hands-on activities. Sign up for one, two, three or all four days. Busing may be available from RES, please call for details.

November 14 - Adventures in Science
November 15 - Outdoor Adventures
November 16 - Art is an Adventure
November 17 - Animal Adventures

*Each program is \$30 per member child,
\$40 per non-member child*

Animal Care Club, Grades 2-5

Wednesdays, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Session 1: 6 weeks, October 4 - November 8
Session 2: 6 weeks, January 3 - February 7

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!

*Each session is \$90 per member child,
\$120 per non-member child*

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



In the Kitchen, Cooking for Grades 2-5

Sunday, November 19

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Mini Pies

Saturday, December 16

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Holiday Chocolates

Sunday, January 21

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Winter Breads

Saturday, February 10

10 AM - 12:00 PM: Valentine Treats

Come learn basic cooking skills while making, tasting, and taking home delicious seasonal treats.

*Each program is \$25 per member child,
\$30 per non-member child*



Festive Seasonal Crafts

Sunday, December 10

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Together we will create traditional garlands, natural centerpieces and festive holiday crafts. This program will be sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit!

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

TODDLER / PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Caregiver & Child Series, Ages 18 - 35 months

Thursdays or Fridays

10:00 AM - 11:30 PM

Session 1, 6 weeks:

September 28 - November 2

Session 2, 6 weeks:

November 9 - December 21

A 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.

*Each session is \$135 per member child/adult pair,
\$165 per non-member child/adult pair*

STORIES ON THE FARM



Storytime for Children with Adults, Ages 1 - 5

Wednesdays, October 18, November 22

December 20, January 17

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 held primarily outdoors except in cases of extreme weather.

*Each program is \$10 per member child/adult pair,
\$15 per non-member child/adult pair.*

Siblings under 1 are free

Winter Stories by the Fire, Ages 3-5

Saturday, December 16

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Drop your preschooler off for an hour of holiday stories and snacks around the fire in our warming shed.

\$10 per member child, \$15 per non-member child.

Nature Explorers, Ages 3 - 5

Tuesdays or Thursdays

3 times per month, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Tuesdays: October 3, 10, 17

November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 12, 19

January 9, 16, 23

Thursdays: October 5, 12, 19

November 2, 9, 16, December 7, 14, 21

January 11, 18, 25

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. *Each 3-part program is \$45 per member child, \$60 per non-member child*





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.



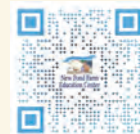
**At the Education Center, you can expect a season filled with exploration, discovery,
and authentic exposure! Join us in the fresh air and experience close encounters
with animals and plants, and increase your knowledge of the natural world!**

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