

Environmental Education Since 1985



New Pond Farm Education Center

FALL/WINTER 2024 - 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

This is such an exciting time of year, filled with fascinating 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 joining the Nature Book Club that we are co-sponsoring with the Mark Twain Library and Redding Land Trust — 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.

Please bring your family and friends to our Harvest Festival - Science and Nature Day on October 19 (rain date 20). 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,
Executive Director

SPECIAL EVENTS

RIBBON CUTTING for our Wetland Project

Saturday, October 19, 11:00 AM

Join Town Officials, NPF Board, and staff for this celebratory event. This vital project has been made possible, in part, thanks to ARPA funding from the town. We can't wait to share our progress with you!



ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL Science and Nature Day!

Saturday, October 19, 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM (Rain Date: Sunday, October 20)

Free entry, there will be small fees for food and craft tickets. No registration required. Please, no dogs.

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, blacksmithing, and make and break engines. There will be livestock encounters-sheep shearing, cow judging, visits with our calves, and closeup views of our honeybees' fascinating activities while in their observation hive. 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 native American encampment.



Skyhunters in Flight

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

(Rain Date: Sunday, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM)

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



The Voice of the Hudson Movie & Discussion

November 6, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Co-sponsored by the Mark Twain Library

Microplastics are ubiquitous in the environment and can be found in marine and freshwater ecosystems, food, air, and drinking water. Learn more about this important issue with consultant, educator, researcher, and explorer Tim Keyes as he shares the results of sampling done around the country, including here at New Pond Farm. Following the discussion, watch *The Voice of the Hudson*, a 50 minute documentary film about the monumental trip 8 high schoolers took down the length of the Hudson in 2023, from the Adirondacks to Manhattan, taking water samples along the way.

Free. Registration is required.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS



Annual Mushroom Walk

Saturday, September 7, 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.



Fall Migration: Birding with Joe Bear

Wednesday, September 25, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Saturday, October 19, 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.

**Have an idea for a program?
Let us know! Please contact
our Program Director at
emily@newpondfarm.org**



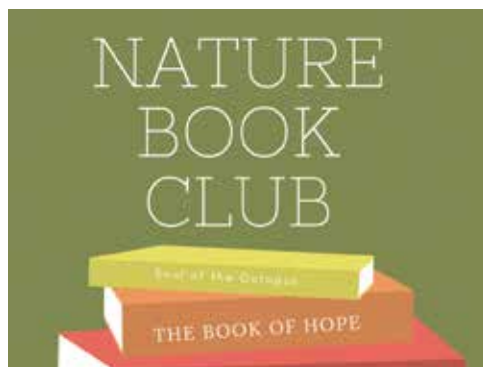
Garden in Art: A Bouquet of Stories

Thursday, September 26, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Co-sponsored by the Mark Twain Library
and the Redding Garden Club**

Gardening in the afterlife, an emperor with an all-consuming gardening hobby, monkeys trading in tulips, virtual reality in the 19th Century? Laura Conley, a long-time Metropolitan Museum gallery guide who is also an enthusiastic gardener, will take us on a trip spanning 4,000 years to look at gardens in art.

Free. This hybrid program will take place both in-person at the Library and virtually over Zoom. Register at marktwainlibrary.org.



Nature Book Club

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

October 16:

The Book of Hope, Jane Goodall

January 22:

Soul of the Octopus, Sy Montgomery

March 19:

Hidden Life of Trees, Peter Wohlleben

May 7: Walden, Henry David Thoreau

A collaboration between *New Pond Farm, Mark Twain Library and Redding Land Trust*. We will gather throughout the seasons at New Pond Farm and discuss books that inspire us, make us think, and help connect us to nature and one another.

Free. Register at marktwainlibrary.org.



Paint and Sip

**Thursdays, November 7 and/or
December 12, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Enjoy a fun night out as our artist instructors lead you on a step-by-step journey to create a wonderful masterpiece to take home or give as a gift! Each night will feature a different design inspired by New Pond Farm's natural beauty. All experience levels are welcome. All materials and light refreshments will be provided.

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



Wreath Making

**Wednesday, December 4 or Thursday,
December 5, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM or
Saturday, December 7, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

Fresh greens, pine cones, pods, bows, berries and expert hands will be ready to greet you as you make a 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

Are you a school teacher or administrator looking for new field trip opportunities or in-school programs? New Pond Farm offers both! More information can be found on our website, newpondfarm.org, or by contacting School Program Coordinator Gwen Denny at gwen@newpondfarm.org

ADULTS & TEENS PROGRAMS



Crocheting by the Fire - Basket

3 part series: Sundays, November 10, 17, 24, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Learn to crochet in just three sessions! During this class we will cover the basics and learn how to make a simple storage basket using New Pond Farm yarn. No experience necessary and all materials will be provided.

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



Needlework Drop-in

Sundays, November 17, December 1, January 12, February 9, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Come be inspired, learn something new, and meet new friends. Join us for a relaxing afternoon of knitting, crocheting, embroidery, and other needlework. We will gather around the fireplace to share stories, ideas, and advice as we each work on our own projects. Open to all experience levels.

Free. Registration is requested.



Needle Felting

Sunday, December 15, 1:30 PM - 3:00 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



Knitting by the Fire - Twisted Headband

3 part series: Sundays, January 5, 12, 26, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Join us by the fire for this three-part series perfect for beginners. We will learn how to cast on and knit in the round while making a cozy headband. All materials will be provided.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Annual Harvest Festival: Saturday, October 19 (rain date 10/20)

Animal Care: After school or Weekends

We would love your help! For more information please contact Emily Ciffone at emily@newpondfarm.org.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PROGRAMS



Junior Staff: Animal Caretakers

Saturdays: September 21, November 16, January 11; Sundays: October 13, December 8, February 2 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Love animals? Come learn the ins and outs of animal care. Focused on our resident reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, this hands-on program will have Jr. Staff helping with feedings, cleanings, health checks, enrichment and more.

Each day is free for members, \$10 for non-members



On the Farm, Grades 5 - 8

With Bus Service from JRMS

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

October 8, 15, 22; *Survival*: Hone your outdoor skills as we explore NPF's 70+ acres of wilderness.

November 12, 19, 26; *Art*: Get creative making art inspired by the nature surrounding us.

December 3, 10, 17; *Animals*: Help care for NPF's reptiles, mammals, and invertebrates.

January 7, 14, 21; *Cooking*: Join us in the kitchen as we make sweet and savory treats to share.

Each Session is \$45 per member, \$60 per non-member



Leatherworking

Sunday, January 26, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Are you interested in learning a new skill? This introductory course will guide crafters through the basics of working with leather. Come create a leather pouch using various hand tools. Through carving and stamping, you will have the opportunity to express your creativity.

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



Afternoons on the Farm, Grades 2 - 4

WITH BUS SERVICE FROM RES!

Mondays, 6 weeks, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**Session 1: September 23 - October 28
(no class 10/14)**

Session 2: November 11 - December 16

**Session 3: January 6 - February 24
(no class 1/20, 2/17)**

An after school program filled with a variety of hands-on activities around the farm. This fun and engaging series will include hikes, animal care, cooking, science, games, and more.

*Each session is \$135 per member child,
\$180 per non-member child*



Animal Care Club, Grades 2-4

Wednesdays, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Session 1: 6 weeks, September 25 -
October 30**

**Session 2: 6 weeks, November 6 -
December 18 (no class 11/27)**

Session 3: 6 weeks, January 8 - February 12

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, amphibians, mammals, and invertebrates that live in the Learning Center. Club members will make salads for turtles, clean snake enclosures, exercise bunnies, wrangle crickets and much more!

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



Nature Explorers, Grades K-2

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

**October 10, 17, 24 November 7, 14, 21
December 5, 12, 19 January 9, 16, 23**

Join us for this 3-part monthly 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 \$45 per member child,
\$60 per non-member child*



Painting and Popcorn, Grades 2 - 4

Friday, November 1, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Your young artist will enjoy a fun night out while painting their very own masterpiece. We will explore different and unconventional ways of painting while creating a scene inspired by the residents of New Pond Farm. Popcorn and other snacks will be provided.

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



In the Kitchen, Cooking for Grades K - 4

Saturdays, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

November 2 - Apple Snacks

December 21 - Holiday Chocolates

January 11 - Winter Baking

February 8 - Valentine Treats

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

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



Festive Seasonal Crafts

**Saturday, December 14,
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

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

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

Early Dismissal Days, Grades K - 4

WITH BUS SERVICE FROM RES

12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

November 20th - Outdoor Adventures

November 21st - Animal Adventures

School's out early, why not spend the afternoon at New Pond Farm? Each day will include indoor and outdoor activities. Sign up for one or two days.

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

TODDLER & PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Storytime for Children with Adults, Ages 1 - 5

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM
October 8, November 12, December 10,
January 7, February 4

Join us 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. Our time will be spent both indoors and outdoors.

Each program is \$10 per member child/adult pair, \$15 per non-member child/adult pair. (Siblings under 1 are free.)



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

Wednesdays or Thursdays,
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
10 weeks: October 9 - December 19
(no class 11/27 & 11/28)

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 almost entirely outdoors, but we will use our heated Nature Hut and Learning Center when necessary.

*\$225 per member child/adult pair,
\$275 per non-member child/adult pair*



Nature Explorers, Ages 3 - 5

Thursdays, 3 times per month,
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
October 10, 17, 24 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, games, critter hunts, animal encounters, and campfires are just a few of the possibilities. Our focus is on outdoor play and child-led exploration.

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



Little Artists Monthly Series, Ages 3 - 5

Tuesdays, 1:30 PM - 3:00PM
October 15, 22, 29 and/or
November 12, 19, 26

Drawing inspiration from the natural world, Little Artists will create beautiful and unique works of art using a variety of materials including wood, clay, paint, fabric, and yarn.

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



Little Chefs Monthly Series, Ages 3 - 5

Tuesdays, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
December 3, 10, 17, January 14, 21, 28,
February 4, 11, 25

Hands-on fun in the kitchen! Little Chefs will learn to safely prepare and enjoy delicious snacks such as homemade granola, yogurt dips, muffins, and more.

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



Winter Stories by the Fire, Ages 3-5

Sunday, December 15, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Drop your preschooler off for an hour of holiday stories, crafts, and treats around the warm fire in our Nature Hut.

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Astronomy: Viewing the Night Sky

**September 7, 8:20 PM, November 9, 6:00 PM,
December 14, 6:00 PM, January 4, 6:00 PM**

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. Be prepared for a short walk from the parking lot out to the Observatory.*

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



Stargazing

Friday, October 4, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Bring lawn chairs and blankets and join us for a low-tech night of stargazing. With cups of farm fresh hot cocoa in hand, we will turn our gaze skyward in search of early fall constellations. Part science, part folklore - this relaxed evening will include the sharing of myths and legends behind common constellations.

**This program is designed for adults and families with school aged children.*

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



Evening Woodland Walk

Friday, October 25 (Rain date: October 26)

Beginning at 4:30 PM, 60 minute guided walks will leave every 30 minutes

Join our guides as you wind your way through our enchanted woodlands learning about fascinating furred and feathered nocturnal neighbors including skunks, raccoons, owls, and foxes. Test your own nighttime hunting abilities through a series of family-friendly activities. Enjoy a mid-walk break at our inviting campfire where you will be treated to farm fresh hot chocolate and sweet treats.

Recommended for children 10 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Group sizes limited.

\$10 per member, \$\$12 per non-member (Children age 3 and under are free)



Family Farm Chores

**September 22, October 12, November 10,
December 21, 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 \$15 per family



National Reptile Day: Animal Meet and Greet

**Monday, October 21, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
OR 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

Join us in a celebration of the world's reptiles. Come 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



A Celebration of Connecticut Woodland Indians

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebrate *National Native American Heritage Month* with us as we learn about the history of the area's first people at New Pond Farm's Native American Museum and Encampment. This hands-on, family program will include exploring the newly rebuilt longhouse and wigwam, enjoying maple syrup on freshly baked cornbread, stories and cooking demonstrations around the fire, and the opportunity to try traditional chores like grinding corn, scraping a deer hide, starting a fire, and sewing a moccasin. We will also visit the museum and discover authentic hammerstones, projectile points, and more.

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

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Caroling in the Barn with the Animals

Friday, December 6, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM or Saturday, December 7, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM or Sunday, December 8, 5:00 PM - 6:00 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. *Sweet treats and farm fresh hot chocolate will be served.*

Members Only! Seating is limited. \$10 per member (Children age 3 and under are free)



Gingerbread Snow Globes

Saturday, December 8, 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM or 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Our incredibly talented board member, Deb Rakich, will help you to create an imaginative snow globe filled with your very own freshly baked gingerbread family and scenery, along with sugar crystal snow, and festive ribbons for for this holiday season. All materials will be provided.

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



Winter Solstice Family Campfire

Friday, December 21, 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Celebrate the Winter Solstice with a warm campfire, farm fresh 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.



Family Wreath Making

Saturday, December 7, 11:30 AM - 12:30 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 that is guaranteed to bring joy to the whole family during this festive season.

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

OPEN DAYS

September 21 and November 16, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Interested in becoming a member? Come to one of our scheduled Open Days to learn more about New Pond Farm Education Center and all it has to offer - the stunning landscape, the fascinating history, the diverse habitats, the varied wildlife, the multitude of educational opportunities, and the warm and welcoming staff.

MEMBER BENEFITS!



BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

Discoverers, Naturalists, Explorers & Adventurers!

With 102-acres of diverse habitats, a busy barnyard with a variety of livestock, and an animal room full of charismatic critters, New Pond Farm is a unique and exciting place to celebrate a birthday.

Tailored to the age and interest of the birthday child, New Pond Farm birthday parties are fun, educational, and unforgettable thanks to our enthusiastic and experienced program staff.

To learn more please contact Gwen Denny at 203-938-2117 or gwen@newpondfarm.org.

SNOWSHOES!

Thanks to a generous donation by L.L. Bean, we have adult and children's snowshoes for members to borrow while on the property. To learn more or to be on our "Call list" for impromptu guided snowshoe walks, please contact Emily Ciffone at 203-938-2117 or emily@newpondfarm.org





New Pond Farm Education Center

101 Marchant Road
West Redding, CT 06896

WE'RE OPEN TO MEMBERS

The property is open to members from dawn until dusk (winter hours: 10AM - 4PM)

Members are invited to hike the trails, cross-country ski/snowshoe around the pastures, or sled down Astronomy Hill. No skating allowed.

No dogs, please.

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Please come for a visit! Join us on one of our scheduled open days (September 21 & November 16) or any other day to learn what we are all about. 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 at newpondfarm.org



At the New Pond Farm Education Center, you can expect a season filled with exploration, discovery, and connection! 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

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.

