



# New Pond Farm

EDUCATION CENTER

# Programs

for adults, families, children

*"Connecting people with the land that enriches and sustains us all."*

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Sock and Glove Animals

**Thursdays, February 9 and 16, 6:00-8:00 pm**

Give old socks and gloves a new life by repurposing them into whimsical stuffed animals. Our **Artist in Residence Kris** will have several designs to inspire you as you learn this fun and easy craft. We will supply the socks and gloves, plus buttons and embroidery to give your animal unique personality. Note: This project may take 2-3 hours to complete so the class will meet two evenings if you need more time to finish. You are also welcome to come back and make a companion for your animal on the second night.

*Fee: \$20/member, \$25/non-member.*

### An Introduction to Astro-Photography

**Wednesday, February 15, 7:00-9:00 pm**

Are you interested in how to take pictures of the night sky, galaxies and nebulae? **Laird Calia** will show you what is possible with regular cameras and tripods. You will learn how to take star trail images and wide shots of night sky. **Sander Pool** will give an overview of the use of telescopes and dedicated equipment for astro-photography (includes a discussion about keeping a telescope and camera aimed at the same point in the sky for hours and computer post processing to increase detail and color). The topics will be fairly technical but should be enjoyable to anyone interested in digital photography and the night sky. Laird is a life long night sky enthusiast who contributes to variable star observations and takes images

from his observatory in Ridgefield. Sander has been taking astro-photos from his yard in Ridgefield for the last four years and has published dozens of images on his site [www.carpephoton.com](http://www.carpephoton.com). He presented advanced image processing techniques at the 2010 Mid West Astro-Imaging Conference. Both participate in astronomy events for New Pond Farm Education center and the Ridgefield Discovery Center. **FREE.**

### Beginner Knitting

**Thursday, March 1, 6:30-8:00 pm**

Would you like to learn to knit? Maybe you know how, but just need a refresher? Join us by the fire for a lesson on casting on and knitting. Class includes one skein of New Pond's own 100% wool yarn in the color of your choosing.

*Fee: \$20/member, \$25/non-member.*

### Nature's Perfect Predator:

**A Cougar Program**

**Friday, March 16, 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Bill Betty**, a mountain lion lecturer from Rhode Island, will give a fascinating presentation that covers all aspects of cougar behavior. Sport hunting, reproduction, pets, predation, and habituation are covered in detail. The various theories why cougars are rapidly reoccupying the Northeast will be discussed. His narrative of close encounters with nature's perfect predator gives compelling testimony about the presence of puma concolor in New England.

*Fee: \$10/member, \$12/non-member.*



**Nature's Perfect Predator:  
A Cougar Program**  
Friday, March 16, 7:00-9:00 pm



**Annual Old Fashioned  
Easter Egg Hunt!**  
Saturday, March 31, 11:00 am  
Rain date Saturday April 7th

***Pre-payment and registration is required.***

***One week cancellation is required for a refund.***

***Park at the Indoor Learning Center.***

***Dress for the outdoors.***

**To register, visit:  
[www.newpondfarm.org](http://www.newpondfarm.org)  
or email [kristen@newpondfarm.org](mailto:kristen@newpondfarm.org)  
or call 203-938-2117**

**REGISTRATION**

**Winter 2012**

*Adult Programs, Continued...*

## **Basic Digital Photography Workshop with Elyse Shapiro**

**Sunday, March 18, 1:00-3:00 pm**

Don't miss this workshop with renowned photojournalist **Elyse Shapiro**. She will provide students with an overview of the digital photographic workflow. Navigating through menus & modes can be overwhelming, a goal of this class is to simplify the process. Elyse will cover the basics from the mechanics of camera usage thru downloading, storage and sharing. Discussion will also include composition, and what makes a "good" image. Suitable for DSLR's as well as Point & Shoot cameras. Elyse Shapiro began her career as a photojournalist and now works as an event and corporate photographer. She has taught photography throughout Connecticut for over 25 years—presently at Silvermine Guild Art Center in New Canaan and Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

*FREE.*

## **Weekly Knitting Group**

**Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 pm**

If you enjoying knitting and good company, please join us for Knit Night each Thursday at the Education Center. Feel free to bring the project you're working on, snacks, ideas or questions. New Pond Farm's yarn is available for purchase. If interested, please email [kristen@newpondfarm.org](mailto:kristen@newpondfarm.org) to get on the contact list.

## **FAMILY PROGRAMS**

### **Backyard Birdfeeding for Families**

**Saturday, February 11, 11:00 am-12:00 pm**

Feeding and caring for the birds in your yard is a fun and educational family activity. Winter feeding is especially beneficial because cold temperatures mean birds have to meet their increased needs for high-energy food. **Phil Robbins** of Wild Birds Unlimited can show you how to provide the best quality food, water, and shelter in order to help your birds survive the coldest months of the year.

*Fee: \$10/member family, \$12/non-member family.*

### **Winter Astronomy**

**Saturday, February 11, 6:00 pm**

Join our team of amateur astronomers for a look at the night sky. You will see Venus, Jupiter, Uranus, the Orion nebulae and winter constellations. Dress very warmly and bring along binoculars and a flashlight if you have them. Please park at the Learning Center and walk out to Astronomy Hill.

*Fee: \$4/member, \$16/max; \$6/non-member, \$24/max.*

### **Family Farm Chores**

**Sunday, February 12, 3:00-4:00 pm**

Bundle up and help Farmer Pete with a round of afternoon farm chores. You will work with the cows, calves, sheep and chickens. Rain or shine.

*Fee: \$10/member family, \$12/non-member family.*

### **Build a Bluebird Nest Box**

**Saturday, February 18, 1:00 pm**

This is a great way to help strengthen our native eastern bluebird population. We will provide all materials needed to build a nesting box for your yard. Literature on how and where to erect it, maintenance and helpful year round observation tips will be provided. Please bring a screwdriver or drill.

*Fee: \$12/member family, \$14/non-member family.*

### **Make Your Own Maple Syrup!**

**Saturday, February 25, 10:00-11:30 am**

Have you ever wanted to try making your own maple syrup at home? Farmer Pete will teach you each step in this sweet process and review the materials needed for backyard production. Dress for the outdoors.

*Fee: \$10/member family, \$12/non-member family.*

### **Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring**

**Saturday, March 3. Seatings: 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00 am**

Start your winter morning with a hearty breakfast of homemade pancakes topped with farm fresh maple syrup. After breakfast, head down to the sugar shed to learn how your maple syrup was made.

*Members Only! Fee: \$8/person. 3 and under free.*

### **Family Farm Chores**

**Saturday, March 3, 3:00-4:00 pm**

Bundle up and help Farmer Mike with a round of afternoon farm chores. You will work with the cows, calves, sheep and chickens. Rain or shine.

*Fee: \$10/member family, \$12/non-member family.*

### **Annual Old Fashioned Easter Egg Hunt!**

**Saturday, March 31, 11:00 am**

**Rain date Saturday April 7th**

Get ready 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. Sign up early, space is limited!

*Members Only! Fee: \$15/member.*

### **Early Spring Astronomy**

**Saturday, March 31, 7:30 pm**

Join us for a look through the telescopes at Mars, Venus, the moon and early spring constellations. Dress very warmly and bring along a flashlight and binoculars if you have them. Please park at the Learning Center and walk out to Astronomy Hill.

*Fee: \$4/member, \$16/max; \$6/non-member, \$24/max.*

### **Peeper Patrol**

**Friday and Saturday April 13 and 14, 7:00-8:00 pm**

Put on your boots and grab your flashlight; we're going looking for amphibians! This annual event is great fun for the whole family. We will search the pond, marsh and wetlands for a variety of species.

*Members Only! Fee: \$10/family.*

## 4/5 YEAR OLDS WITH ADULT

All programs meet from 1:15–2:00pm  
\$6/member child and \$8/non-member child

### Hibernation

**Monday, February 6**

How many of our wild furry friends sleep through the winter? Not as many as you might think! You will find out who is a hibernator, a catnapper, and learn about those animals that remain active all winter long.

### Valentine's Day

**Tuesday, February 14**

Using New Pond Farm's fresh milk and eggs, we will create some beautiful and delicious Valentine cookies for you to enjoy and give to your special someone.

### Sweet Syrup

**Thursday, March 1**

Bundle up and come along as we learn how maple syrup is made. We will finish in the sugar house where we can taste a few delicious maple products.

### Totally Turtles

**Friday, March 16**

We have three different turtles for you to meet, feed and learn about, followed by a turtle craft for you to take home.

### Equinox Hike

**Tuesday, March 20**

Be the first ones on the farm's hiking trails this spring! We will learn about what happens during an equinox and will search for traces, tracks and signs of our local wildlife.

## 6–12 YEAR OLDS

All programs are \$8/member child, \$10/non-member child, and meet from 4:00–5:00pm, **UNLESS NOTED**. This is a drop off program.

### Making Green Pet Toys

**Wednesday, February 15**

Now our beloved dogs, cats and birds can be environmentalists too! Our **Artist in Residence Kris** will help you craft amusing fetch toys, kitty teases and bird mobiles using a variety of recycled materials. We have everything you'll need to make several toys but you may also bring in your own supplies for a more personal touch--just call for a list of suggestions.

### Maple Sugaring

**Wednesday, March 7**

Help New Pond Farm Education Center's Maple Sugaring operation. We will tap several trees, collect some sap if the weather cooperates and then watch it boil down to sweet syrup. We will taste too, of course!

### Hot Air Balloons

**Friday, March 23**

Work as a team to construct a tissue paper hot air balloon, and then head outdoors for an exciting launch.

### Easter Egg Trees

**Tuesday, March 27**

Create a beautiful egg tree with hand blown eggs. A perfect table top decoration for spring.

*Members only. Fee: \$12/member*

### Naturally Dyed Eggs

**Monday, April 2**

This year, let your Easter Eggs be all natural! We will use a variety of kitchen ingredients to dye a dozen eggs to take home. Please bring one dozen white, hard boiled eggs.

## FIBER ARTS with Paula Moliver

**Wednesdays, February 22 and 29, 4:00-5:00 pm**

If you have always been curious about yarn and how it is made...here is your opportunity. Learn to spin your own yarn in two sessions. The first session will have you dyeing the wool into a variegated roving. The second class will have you spinning your roving on a drop spindle. There will be several spinning wheels for you to try. Then it is up to your imagination to knit, weave, crochet or use your new yarn in your crafts. Ages 10 to Adult. For more information about Paula and fiber, see Paula's website: [www.molivermade.com](http://www.molivermade.com)

A \$10 material fee covers 2.5 oz. of roving top (fibers are smooth and parallel), drop spindle and materials used for dyeing. *Fee: \$10/member, \$12/non-member.*

## JR. STAFF

**Begins February 7**

**Six Tuesday Afternoons, 4:00-5:00 pm**

This program will provide students ages 9-18 a chance to work on the farm and learn about the natural world. This program meets SIX Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 pm beginning on February 7. Staffers must come dressed in work clothes and sturdy shoes.

*Fee: \$50.00. Family Members Only!*

To register call 203-938-2117 or e-mail [kristen@newpondfarm.org](mailto:kristen@newpondfarm.org)



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Farm**  
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New Pond Farm Education Center  
Box 116  
101 Marchant Road  
West Redding, CT 06896

## SUMMER CAMP

Each year New Pond Farm hosts a unique summer camp that brings together children from three cities of Connecticut with area youngsters. If you have an 8-12 year old who would enjoy making new friends from different backgrounds and becoming part of the farm family, then New Pond Farm summer camp is the right place. Activities include working with the animals, exploring the woodlands, ponds, streams, pastures and gardens, swimming, baking, games, crafts and more.

Session I - July 6-15  
Session II - July 20-29  
Session III - August 3-12

Campers must be Family Members of New Pond Farm Education Center.

Fee: \$550 includes snacks, lunch, program materials and t-shirt.

Registration opens Saturday, February 25, 9:00 am.

Please call the education center at 203-938-2117 and leave a message with your child's name, and first and second choice of Session. You will receive a confirmation call on Monday, February 27.

## SUMMER SHAKESPEARE

for Actors Going into 7th, 8th and 9th Grades

### *"Love's Labour's Lost"*

This engaging hands-on theatre program with director **Nancy Ponturo** will incorporate acting, dance, and voice. As they prepare for their performances, students will become more familiar with the intricacies of the Shakespearean language, garner a sound knowledge of the text, and get a glimpse into life in Elizabethan times. We aim to stimulate the students' imaginations through an innovative approach to classical material.

- Dates June 25-July 15, 2012
- Times: 9:30 am-12:30 pm  
(longer rehearsals during week #3)
- Performance Dates: July 12, 13, 14, 15
- \$650 per NPF Family Member, \$725 per nonmember
- For more information please go to [www.newpondfarm.org](http://www.newpondfarm.org)
- Spaces are limited. Please call 203-938-2117 to register!

