



The Chickadee

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2008

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Newsletter of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

www.dpnc.org

Earth Day 2008

Celebration

Saturday, April 19 10 am - 3 pm

\$6 Adults \$4 Children

Healthy Planet, Healthy People

Learn how a healthy planet and healthy people go hand in hand through fun, food, educational exhibits and engaging presentations.

Come participate in a wild scavenger hunt, get your face painted, and listen to the natural melodies of birds and frogs in the spring woodland. This year's event will feature some of the best local green companies and earth-friendly initiatives. Eat delicious locally-grown food and enjoy live entertainment, music,



puppets, and more. Meet live animals, including DPNC's resident snakes and birds, and some special barnyard guests. Buy local foods, heritage seeds, plants and produce in a special Earth

Day market. Learn what area conservation organizations are doing in your neighborhood. This is a great chance to mingle with like-minded folks and enjoy a spring day in Connecticut. Held rain or shine!

Sponsored By



Spring Recital to Benefit DPNC

at the Union Baptist Church in Mystic

featuring Violinist Hilary Castle

3 - 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 30

Adults & Students

\$20 Members \$25 Non-Members \$15 Student



See page 7 for details

Wild Egg Hunt

Friday, March 21

Two Sessions*

10:30 a.m. or 1p.m.

Members \$5

Ages 1 - 10

NonMembers \$7

Animals are masters at camouflaging their eggs. Come see if the Nature Center staff is as talented! For each hunt we will hide over 1000 eggs on our trails. Children must be accompanied by an adult, **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER** and we ask that children only collect 10 eggs each. Please bring your own basket.

Mission: to inspire and nurture appreciation of the natural world and foster a personal environmental ethic

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Message from the Director

Spring starts to occur long before the vernal equinox on March 20th. Fox, bobcat, Great-horned and Barred owls, woodchuck and many other common backyard animals actually breed in January and February, and have young in a den or nest before the first day of spring. For many species, photo-period, or day length, is the main factor that triggers



Maggie Jones

instinctual hormonal responses. Days grow longer by the minutes as we transition through winter, driving an array of wildlife behaviors that we can witness. Perhaps you have noticed Red-tailed Hawks over StoneRidge or Bald Eagles over the Groton Reservoir performing aerial courtship displays; their spectacular dives and talon grasps can be thrilling to watch. Woodcock start displaying at dawn and dusk in early February and continue into April. Once the temperatures climb into the forties, male northern wood frogs make their duck-like calls on rainy nights while spotted salamanders silently migrate to vernal pools. Spring peepers are not far behind. Woodpeckers begin to drum, chickadees and cardinals sing their courtship songs, and the plumage of goldfinches and other songbirds starts to brighten. The skunk cabbage poking through the ice in January will soon be in full flower. While these things happen predictably every year, they are never any less amazing. Join us to witness some early rites of spring at Sachuest Point, the Shepaug Dam, on full moon hikes or at our Earth Day celebration.

Another rite of spring at DPNC is our membership drive. Spring is a beautiful season to introduce friends and family to the rich array of wildlife found in southeastern Connecticut. In this issue of *The Chickadee*, you will find a membership application. Consider giving a family membership as a gift, or pass it on to someone you know who enjoys nature. DPNC relies on membership support to carry out our mission, through all

Lady Slippers at the Peace Sanctuary Walk, Wine & Cheese

Thursday, May 22nd
Led by Maggie Jones
Members \$12

6-8p.m.
Adults
NonMembers \$15

Meet at the entrance to the Peace Sanctuary on River Road in Mystic (parking along the road) for a guided hike through the preserve to look for Pink Lady's Slippers and other late blooming wildflowers, followed by hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese.

A Seasonal Wildflower Journey

in southeastern CT

Slide lecture by Jo Negri, owner of English Borders
Thursday, April 3
Led by Jo Negri
Members \$8

7 - 8 p.m.
Adults
NonMembers \$10

Learn about the beauty, variety and lore of wildflowers that find their niche in the diverse habitats in this part of Connecticut. The focus is on appreciation & conservation of the native plants that are perfectly adapted to our local conditions and also on the threat posed by introduced and invasive species. Some easier to cultivate native wildflowers are highlighted for anyone who is seeking to plant their own "wild garden" areas. All wildflower photographs are originals, taken in Mystic and the Stoningtons.

aspects of our operation. If you enjoy the programs and services we offer, please spread the word- it is the best form of advertising for us. Our goal is to bring in 100 new members, and with your help, we can do it.

Maggie

Adult & Family Activities

Birding at Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, March 1 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

Members \$35 NonMembers \$40

This part of the RI coast is the winter home of some of our most beautiful native waterfowl, including Harlequin Duck and Common Eider. Peregrine Falcon, Kestrel, Harrier, Purple Sandpiper, American Widgeon, and Blue-winged Teal are just a sampling of some of the other birds we typically see. Short-eared and Snowy Owls and Rough-legged Hawks are also winter visitors here. We'll walk a loop trail around Sachuest, and gradually make our way back along the RI coast (by van) towards CT, with stops along Ocean Drive in Newport, and Beavertail Park in Jamestown. We'll likely stop for a hot beverage or afternoon snack, depending on the weather. *Please dress warmly and pack a picnic lunch.* The van will leave from DPNC. Call or email mjones@dpnc.org to arrange a meeting spot if you live in RI.



Eagle Viewing at Shepaug Dam

in Southbury, CT

Saturday, March 8 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

Members \$35 NonMembers \$40

Prepare to be amazed as we travel to Southbury, Connecticut to search for Bald Eagles from a blind by the Shepaug Dam on the Connecticut River. We will have spotting scopes available, however, feel free to bring your own binoculars. In addition to Eagles we will watch for a variety of waterfowl sure to be scouting the same waters.

Please bring a lunch.

Spring time walk

at Avalonia Land Conservancy's Avery Preserve

Saturday, March 29

9:30 - 12 noon

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$3 NonMembers \$5

Celebrate the season as we look for signs of the coming Spring! Keep your eyes peeled for salamanders, skunk cabbage, and other new growth popping out of the trails!



Salamander Walk

Wednesday, March 26

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Led by Bruce Fellman

Members \$5 NonMembers \$7

Come learn about salamanders, wood frogs, fairy shrimp and the other unique creatures that inhabit vernal pools in our area. Bruce Fellman is a naturalist and author who has written for national magazines such as Smithsonian and National Wildlife. This program is best on a warm, rainy night, but dress for the weather, whatever it may be.

Long Pond, Ell Pond Hike

Saturday, May 10

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$3 NonMembers \$5

Explore the borderlands as we hike a short part of the Narragansett Trail leading to Long and Ell ponds. This rugged section features beautiful scenic trails and unique flora and fauna.

Spring Birding for Adults & Family

Pre-registration is necessary to ensure that classes are neither cancelled nor over-subscribed.

Woodcock Walk at Haley Farm

in Groton

Thursday, March 13

6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

Free for DPNC Members \$5 for NonMembers

If conditions are right (not too cold or windy) we may observe the aerial courtship display of American Woodcock, a member of the sandpiper family. In late winter and early spring, male woodcock take to the air at dusk to impress females. Haley Farm has been a reliable place to watch this display, but if woodcock are not in the mood, we will take a short night hike and sharpen our senses listening for other night sounds. Meet at Haley Farm Parking lot.

Shorebirds and Waterfowl

at Watch Hill

Friday, April 4

1 - 4 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

Members \$8

NonMembers \$10

Explore coastal areas and take a walk along the beach to look for early spring arrivals and migrants, including Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Osprey, herons and sandpipers. Van leaves DPNC at 1PM. Call or e-mail mjones@dpnc.org to arrange a meeting spot in RI.

Backyard Birds by Sight and Sound

Thursday, April 24

7 - 8 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

Members \$8

NonMembers \$10

Learn to recognize some of the individual voices among the avian choir on spring mornings. This basic birding program will focus on visual and aural identification of some of our more common birds, and will serve as a primer or refresher to help locate and identify birds on upcoming field trips.

Spring Bird Identification Walk

at Barn Island

Saturday, April 26

10am - Noon

Led by Maggie Jones

Members \$5

NonMembers \$8

By late April, some resident songbirds have started to nest. Migrants continue to arrive from their winter homes, or pass through en route to northern New England and Canada. Coastal preserves such as Barn Island offer a diversity of habitats and opportunities to find a variety of different species.

Did you know?

It's not just your taxes that need to be done by April 15th, it's also time to start thinking about hummingbirds. DPNC recommends that you fill your hummingbird feeders by April 15th. You won't want to miss the early arrivals. From beautiful feeders to books, the Nature Center store has all your hummingbird and other birding needs!

Spring Birds and Wildflowers

at the Grill's Preserve in Bradford, RI

Sunday, May 4

10 - 12 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

DPNC & WLT Members \$5 NonMembers \$8

This preserve, owned by the Westerly Land Trust, lies along the Pawcatuck River. White Pine, Pitch Pine, deciduous woodland and shrubby openings provide habitat for many beautiful plants and birds.

Meet at the entrance to the Grill's preserve, at the end of Bowling Lane (first right past Tim Horton's, off route 91 in Bradford).

International Migratory Bird Day

Walk and coffee at DPNC

Saturday, May 10

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

Members \$5

NonMembers \$8

Enjoy a cup of freshly brewed, sustainably-grown coffee and learn to recognize, by sight and sound, some of the birds that migrate between the Eastern US and the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, including swallows, warblers, orioles, and tanagers. Learn about the importance of traditional shade-grown coffee plantations in providing critical quality habitat for migrating birds.

Endangered Species Day

Birding in the Borderlands:

Explore an old growth hemlock forest

Sunday, May 18

10 - 12 p.m.

Led by Maggie Jones

DPNC & TNC Members \$5 NonMembers \$8

Co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy

The extensive tract of undeveloped land that includes Arcadia WMA in RI and Pachaug State Forest in CT is known as 'the borderlands,' and supports a diversity of birds and animals that require large unbroken forest. Many of these species are birds: warblers, hawks, thrushes and others whose numbers have declined in recent years. During the past decade, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), in concert with other conservation organizations, private land-owners and municipalities, has worked diligently to raise awareness and further land preservation efforts throughout the borderlands region. In celebration of *Endangered Species Day*, take a guided 2.5 mile walk in search of some of our forest interior birds.

Directions to trailhead: Meet at the Beach Pond boat launch on the north end of the pond. From Route 165, turn north onto Forge Hill Road and follow signs for boat landing.



Earth Week April 13th - 19th Adults, Family and Children

Pre-registration is necessary to ensure that classes are neither cancelled nor over-subscribed.

Bronx Zoo Bus Trip!

Monday, April 14 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Led by Kim Hargrave Family

Members \$60 NonMembers \$70

Come enjoy the largest urban zoo in the U.S! Travel from Africa to Asia in a single day. See tigers, giraffes and gorillas up close. Watch bats hang out and reptiles crawl through the jungle. You will see animals you didn't know existed. This all inclusive trip includes: zoo admission, Skyfari Cable Car (one-way), Children's Zoo, Congo Gorilla Forest, Butterfly Garden, Bug Carousel, and Zoo Shuttle Unlimited. The bus leaves the Nature Center at 8 am; please plan to arrive by 7:50 am. Bus will leave the zoo at 4:00PM. *Bring your own snacks for the bus ride, both to the zoo and back, as we will not stop.* For more sneak peaks at what this fabulous wildlife park has to offer, visit the Bronx Zoo website: www.bronxzoo.com

Aquatic Insects

Monday, April 14

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Led by Staff

Ages 6 & up

Members \$12

NonMembers \$15

Water is home to an incredible variety of insect life. We will venture down to our pond with dips nets in hand and catch as many of these insects as we can. Then we will bring them back inside and use a microscope to look at the different adaptations.

Bird Songs

Monday, April 14

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Led by Lily Meadows

Ages 4 - 6

Members \$12

NonMembers \$15

We recognize different birds by their unique songs and calls many of which can be translated into words. A Barred Owl's hoot sounds like, "Who cooks for you" and a Goldfinch flight song sounds like "potato chip." We will learn how to identify some of the common songs and calls of local birds, and spend time outside listening for them.

Groton Reservoir Walk

Friday, April 18

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$3

NonMembers \$5

Have you ever wondered what lies behind the fences at the Groton Reservoir? This is a rare opportunity to walk the trails, learn the history of the reservoir and look for birds and other wildlife.

Nature Days

April 15, 16, 17th
9 - 4 p.m.

Led by Kim Hargrave

Ages 6 & up

Members \$45 per day

NonMembers \$60

Celebrate spring by coming to one, two or all three Nature Days. Each morning we will travel from DPNC to a different destination to make amazing natural discoveries.

Tuesday: Glacier Park in Ledyard.

Wednesday: Manatuck Preserve in Stonington.

Thursday: The mysterious Teftweald at Bircheturn - an Avalonia property in North Stonington. *Please bring a lunch, water bottle and snack packed in a backpack* and be prepared to spend the day outside hiking, pond dipping, and climbing rocks and much more!

Build a Bird Box

Wednesday, April 16

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Led by Kim Hargrave

Adults & Family

Members \$10 per box NonMembers \$15 per box

Many birds are cavity nesters that benefit from man-made boxes. During this fun evening you will learn about the different species of cavity nesters that live in this area as you build a bird box to put up in your backyard. Please bring your own hammer.

Nature's Baby Shower

Wednesday, April 16

1 - 3 p.m.

Led by Lily Meadows

Ages 4 and up

Members \$10

NonMembers \$12

Spring has arrived and along with it comes all the baby animals. We will learn which babies are born when and what their names are - did you know a baby fox is called a kit, and a baby deer is called a fawn? We'll even have a cake to celebrate!

Slime Time

Friday, April 18

1 - 3 p.m.

Led by Kim Hargrave

ages 4-6 or 6 and up

Members \$12

NonMembers \$15

Nature is full of slimy things like slugs and snails and algae - we will explore it all and make some of our own slime to bring home!

Earth Day Celebration
Saturday, April 19th 10am-3pm

see page 1

Pre-registration is necessary to ensure that classes are neither cancelled nor over-subscribed.

Signs of Spring

Wednesday, March 26

Led by Steve Sarnoski

Members \$12

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages 4 and up

NonMembers \$15

From skunk cabbage to salamanders the signs of spring are popping up all around us! We will walk the trails and search for the telltale signs and then create a beautiful spring time craft.

Maple Sugar Math

Wednesday, March 26

Led by Mary Meier

Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$15

The sap is running: let's prepare to calculate! Learn all about the maple sugaring season, how we get sap from trees and which trees have sweet sap. Use your math skills to find out how much sap it takes to make enough syrup for your pancakes.

Pond Ecology

Tuesday, April 22

Led by Mary Meier

Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$15

A tried and true method of finding out what lives in a pond is called Pond-Dipping - we will venture out to our pond with dip nets in hand and go pond-dipping for all variety of little creatures. We will learn what part each creature plays in a living pond.

Critter Collecting

Wednesday, April 23

Led by Steve Sarnoski

Members \$12

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$15

Have you ever wondered how biologists collect live animals for study? We will set out and test a variety of different collecting methods including bucket traps, coffee can traps, have-a-heart traps, minnow traps and turtle traps. We'll even use our own hands!

Birds in the Wind

the Science of Flight

Tuesday, May 13

Led by Mary Meier

Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$15

Ever wonder how birds fly? We will explore this amazing phenomenon and see what aerodynamic adaptations birds have to enable them to soar in the winds. We will also make paper fliers to test what we have learned.

Wonderful Flowers

Thursday, May 29

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.

Ages 4 and up

NonMembers \$15

Spring is the time to see the most beautiful forest flowers in bloom. We will explore the trails in search of flowers, see what animals depend on the flowers and even create a simple flower press to bring home.

Hippity Hoppity

Tuesday, March 11

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$10

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$12

Eastern Cottontails have amazing adaptations to help them survive being a predators' easy meal. We will look into those adaptations and then go on a hike to search for signs of cottontails on our trails, then we'll meet the resident rabbit at our preschool named Bun-bun.

Egg Decorating

Wednesday, March 19

Led by Steve Sarnoski

Members \$10

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$12

From pale blue to speckled stone, bird eggs vary by size, color and design. Examine a wide variety of bird eggs from a gigantic Ostrich egg to a tiny Hummingbird egg - then you can try your hand at decorating your own.

Don't be fooled by these animals!

Tuesday, April 1

Led by Steve Sarnoski

Members \$10

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$12

Fake eyes, playing dead, changing colors and throwing their voices are just a few of the amazing adaptations animals have to fool predators and prey. Have fun meeting and learning about creatures who will try to fool you!

Glaciers

Tuesday, April 29

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$10

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$12

Nothing has shaped our land as much as glaciers. We will experiment with mini glaciers to learn how they scrape and carve the land and hike the trails looking for different signs that glaciers were once here.

Ponds and Vernal Pools

what's the difference?

Wednesday, May 7

Led by Steve Sarnoski

Members \$10

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$12

Do you know the difference between a pond and a vernal pool? Explore these distinctly different habitats and meet the creatures that live in each. Learn where to look for wood frogs, salamanders, bull frogs, and fairy shrimp.

The Beautiful life of Bees

Tuesday, May 20

Led by Kim Hargrave

Members \$10

4 - 5:15 p.m.

Ages 6 & up

NonMembers \$12

Bees come in a host of different shapes and sizes and have incredible lifecycles. We will learn the essential role bees play in our ecosystem and in our life, from producing sweet honey to pollinating plants. We will look for bees in our meadow and woodlands and observe them foraging among the flowers.

Special Adult & Family Programs

Pre-registration is necessary to ensure that classes are neither cancelled nor over-subscribed.

Pysanky ancient Ukrainian egg decorating

Saturday, March 15 9 - 1 p.m.

Led by **Pat Chadwick and Keri Hicks**

Members \$35 NonMembers \$40

Learn how to make beautifully decorated eggs using beeswax and dyes. Many believe the power of the egg means RENEWAL OF LIFE AND NATURE. In tales dating back to 988 AD, the egg was thought to possess extraordinary powers for healing and good luck. We will take you through the entire process of egg decorating and you will leave with beautiful eggs you can display in your home, as well as all the knowledge you need to continue on your own.

Compost Happens...

Friday, April 11 3:30-6 p.m.

Led by **DPNC**

Members \$5 NonMembers \$8

Compost is a remarkable biological recycling process. It demonstrates that there is no such thing as waste in nature. Please join us on a trip to **Earth Care Farm** in Charlestown, RI. Earth Care Farm has been producing high quality, certified organic compost for 28 years. Owner Mike Merner will lead us through his farm and this fascinating process. *Van leaves*

DPNC promptly at 3:30 pm.

Full Moon Hikes

Join us on monthly walks to explore the woods and wild under the beauty of a full moon. These free walks are led by DPNC staff members. Heavy rain cancels.



Full Sugar Moon

Friday, March 21 7 - 8 p.m.

The days are getting longer so come out and see what's happening on this early spring night after equinox as we walk through the quiet trails of the *Nature Center*.

Full Frog Moon

Sunday, April 20 7 - 8 p.m.

Get out and stretch your legs for an hour and enjoy the moonlight on a spring night at *Salem Land Trust's Walden Preserve*. Call for directions.

Full Planting Moon

Tuesday, May 20 8 - 9 p.m.

Celebrate the coming of the warm summer months with an evening walk at *Manatuck*. Meet behind Pine Point School.



Spring Recital to Benefit DPNC

featuring Violinist Hilary Castle

Held at the Union Baptist Church in Mystic

Sunday, March 30 3 - 5 p.m. **Adults & Family**
Members \$20 NonMembers \$25 Student \$15

A native of Stonington, Hilary has performed in the United States, Europe and Australia with the *Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra* and the *Hart School of Music Youth Orchestra*. She earned a Bachelor of Music in violin performance at *Boston University* where she studied with Peter Zazofsky and spent a semester in London at the *Royal College of Music*, performing in it's symphony orchestra with guest conductors Bernard Haitink and John Wilson. In 1998, she shared first prize in the *Eastern Connecticut Symphony Youth Orchestra's Victor Norman Concerto Competition*. She has performed in orchestras and chamber ensembles at national and international music festivals, including the *Texas Music Festival* in Houston, the *Bowdoin International Music Festival* in Bowdoin, Maine and in *Casalmaggiore, Italy*, where she appeared as soloist in a performance of *Spring* from *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*. Ms. Castle currently is a Master of Music candidate at *Mannes College* in New York City, studying with violinist Lucie Robert.

Hilary will perform works of Beethoven, Vivaldi, Barber and Massenet.

Childrens Programs

Saw Whet Owls

Wednesday, March 12
Led by Lily Meadows
Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6
NonMembers \$15

These tiny raptors are the smallest owls in Connecticut and one of the Nature Center's newest additions. Learn about their distinct call, where they live and what they like to eat, then a visit with our new owl friend.

The Incredible Egg

Tuesday, March 18
Led by Mary Meier
Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6
NonMembers \$15

We will explore why there are so many different egg shapes, sizes, colors and patterns in nature. We will meet some animals who lay eggs, then we will use natural dyes to create our own beautiful egg designs to take home with us.

Nature's Noise Makers

Tuesday, April 8
Led by Mary Meier
Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6
NonMembers \$15

What's that racket coming from the woods? Learn who is making all that noise in the ponds and wetlands, then meet some of the cacophonous critters up close and personal.

Rain, Rain Come Today

Wednesday, April 30
Led by Lily Meadows
Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6
NonMembers \$15

Rainy days might seem a bit dreary, but they play an essential role in our ecosystem and our world. We'll learn about the water cycle, why it rains, how the rain changes our land and where all the water eventually goes.

Fun with Mud

Wednesday, May 14
Led by Lily Meadows
Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6
NonMembers \$15

Let's get muddy! This time of year mud is everywhere, learn how animals use it to their advantage. Since there will be plenty of muddy fun to be had, make sure to wear your play clothes!

Dragonflies

Tuesday, May 20
Led by Mary Meier
Members \$12

1 - 3 p.m.
Ages 4 - 6
NonMembers \$15

Prepare to explore our pond for these elusive flying daredevils! We will find out what they eat and how they hunt and then we will make a craft take home.

Girl Scout Day at DPNC



Girls Love Nature!

Girl Scout Day at DPNC
Saturday, May 17 **9:30 am - 2:30 pm**
\$10 per badge for Try-it's and Junior Girl Scouts

Are you a Girl Scout who loves nature? Come to the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center's Girl Scout Day for a fun filled day of nature activities just for Girl Scouts! Come with your troop or with a friend. Earn a variety of badges while having a blast with new friends! Activities include guided hikes on the trails, crafts, visits with live animals, pond dipping and much more! Participate in a badge program or just explore the Nature Center.

Pre-registration is required.

Badge Programs:

Try-Its:

Eco-Explorer- Investigate our woods on a scavenger hunt, learn about different habitats and meet an endangered animal.
9:30 am- 11:30am

Water Water Everywhere- Get wet at our pond! Build your own water snooper, go pond dipping and learn about water conservation.
12:30pm-2:30pm

Jr. Girl Scouts:

Earth Connections- Learn how everything on earth is connected. Explore plants and trees, go pond dipping, visit an endangered animal, learn about adaptations and find out how humans impact our environment.
9:30am-11:30am

Wildlife- Go for a hike in our woods and see how many different species of wildlife we can identify. Visit with our resident birds of prey and learn about their special adaptations and make a craft to take home.
12:30pm-2:30pm

Early Childhood Ongoing Programs

Pre-registration is necessary to ensure that classes are neither cancelled nor over-subscribed.

Pre-registration allows DPNC to secure staffing and materials for programs so that we may best serve you and your children. We require pre-registration and payment

for most DPNC programs, in order to reserve a space. If DPNC cancels a program, you will receive a full refund. If you cancel, you will receive a full refund

less a 15% administrative fee. Cancellations within four (4) days of a program are not refundable.

Hummingbirds

Ages 2 to 3 with a caregiver
Fridays - 10 - 11:30 a.m.
with Mary Meier

**please note
time change*

Session 4 Feb. 22, 29 Mar. 7, 14, 28**
Session 5 Apr. 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9**
Session 6 May 16, 23, 30, June 6*

Creatures are coming out of hibernation. Woodfrogs and peepers are vocal in the wetland. We will explore these and other fun topics in this class. Enjoy circle time, stories, crafts, snacks, and - of course - lots of outside in the fresh spring air! Pre-registration required.

Butterflies

Age 3
Wednesdays - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. with Lily Meadows

Session 4 Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26
Session 5 April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7
Session 6 May 14, 21, 28, June 4*

Let your child explore nature in this class designed exclusively for three-year-olds. We will learn about and experience the outside world as we make all kinds of fun spring discoveries. Each class includes circle time, crafts, a snack, and lots of time on the Nature Center trails! Pre-registration is required.

Cottontails

Ages 1 (walking) to 4 with caregiver
Thursdays - 10 - 11 a.m. with Mary Meier & Steve Sarnoski
Session 4 Feb. 21, 28, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Session 5 Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8
Session 6 May 15, 22, 29, June 5*

Enjoy the magic of the woods in spring. You and your child will have fun listening for the newly arriving birds, searching for animal tracks along the streams and trails. We will visit a new natural area each week; the first class meets at DPNC. Pre-registration is required.

Discovery

Tuesday or Thursday sessions
Ages 4 - 6 Tuesdays - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. with Mary Meier
Session 4 Feb. 19, 26, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25
Session 5 Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6
Session 6 May 13, 20, 27, June 3*

Thursdays - 1 - 3 p.m. with Mary Meier & Lily Meadows
Session 4 Feb. 21, 28, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
Session 5 Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8
Session 6 May 15, 22, 29, June 5*

Exploring the outdoors is what this class does best! Learn about a new nature topic every week, from what squirrels and other animals are up to in the spring and where different kinds of birds will be found. Activities like circle time, crafts, and stories allow children to understand animal habitats, bird migration, and other fun spring subjects. Each class includes a snack. Pre-registration is required.

Cottontails

6 classes - Members \$42 Non-Members \$60 **Butterflies, Discovery & Hummingbirds** * Members \$48 Non-Members \$60
 + 4 classes - Members \$28 Non-Members \$40 Members \$72 Non-Members \$90 ** Members \$60 Non-Members \$75

Nature Center Membership *makes a Great Gift!*

What could be better than sharing the love of nature by offering that experience to others?
 Please help spread the values of the Nature Center to friends, relatives or neighbors.

To: Name _____ From: Name _____
 Address _____ Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Phone _____

Levels of Annual Membership

- Senior Individual (65+) \$20**
- Individual \$25**
- Senior Family (senior household) . . . \$30**
- Couple/Single Parent Family \$35**
- Family (one entire household) \$40**

I have enclosed a check **Payment Total \$ _____**
 Please charge my credit card ___ Visa ___ Mastercard

_____/_____/_____

 _____ CARD NUMBER _____ EXP DATE _____ CVV _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

Programs at a Glance

Here is a convenient guide for putting all of our great programs at your fingertips.

Date	For Ages	Title	Time
Mar 1	Adults & Family	Birding Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge	10 - 5 pm
Mar 8	Adults & Family	Eagle Viewing at Shepaug Dam in Southbury	9 - 3 pm
Mar 11	6 & up	Hippity Hoppity (After School)	4 - 5:15 pm
Mar 12	4 - 6	Saw Whet Owls	1 - 3 pm
Mar 13	Adults & Family	Woodcock Walk at Haley Farm in Groton	6:15 - 7:15 pm
Mar 15	Adults & Family	Pysanky ancient Ukrainian egg decorating	9 - 1 pm
Mar 18	4 - 6	The Incredible Egg	1 - 3 pm
Mar 19	6 & up	Egg Decorating (afterschool)	4 - 5:15 pm
Mar 21	1 - 10	Wild Egg Hunt	10:30 am and 1 pm
Mar 21	Adults & Family	Full Sugar Moon Walk	7-8 pm
Mar 26	Family	Salamander Walk	7 - 8:30 pm
Mar 26	4 and up	Signs of Spring [homeschool]	9:30 - 11:30 am
Mar 26	6 & up	Maple Sugar Math [homeschool]	1 - 3 pm
Mar 29	Family	Spring time walk at Avalonia's Avery Preserve [adults and family]	9:30 - Noon
Mar 30	Adults & Family	Spring Recital to Benefit DPNC with Violinist Hilary Castle	3 - 5 pm
Apr 1	4 - 6	Discovery Tuesday Session 5	9:30 - 11:30 am
Apr 1	6 & up	Don't be fooled by these animals! [afterschool]	4 - 5:15 pm
Apr 2	3	Butterflies 5	9:30 - 11:30 am
Apr 3	1 (walking) to 4 *	Cottontails 5	10 - 11 am
Apr 3	4 - 6	Discovery Thursday Session 5	1 - 3 pm
Apr 3	Adults & Family	A Seasonal Wildflower Journey in SE CT	7 - 8 pm
Apr 4	Adults & Family	Shorebirds and Waterfowl at Watch Hill	1 - 4 pm
Apr 8	4 - 6	Nature's Noise Makers	1 - 3 pm
Apr 11	2 to 3 *	Hummingbirds 5	10 - 11:30 am
Apr 11	Adults & Family	Compost Happens	3:30-6 pm
Apr 14	Family	Bronx Zoo Bus Trip!	8 am - 6 pm
Apr 14	6 & up	Aquatic Insects [earth week]	9:30 - 11:30 am
Apr 14	4 - 6	Bird Songs [earth week]	9:30 - 11:30 am
Apr 15	6 & up	Nature Days [Earth Week] April 15, 16, 17th	9 - 4 pm
Apr 16	4 and up	Nature's Baby Shower [Earth Week]	1 - 3 pm
Apr 16	Adults & Family	Build a Bird Box [Earth Week]	7 - 8:30 pm
Apr 18	4 - 6	Slime Time [Earth Week]	1 - 3 pm
Apr 18	Adults & Family	Groton Reservoir Walk [Earth Week]	9:30 - 11:30 am
Apr 19	Adults & Family	Earth Day Celebration	10am - 3 pm
Apr 20	Adults & Family	Full Frog Moon	7-8 pm
Apr 22	6 & up	Pond Ecology	1 - 3 pm
Apr 23	6 & up	Critter Collecting	9:30 - 11:30 am
Apr 24	Adults & Family	Backyard Birds by Sight and Sound	7 - 8 pm
Apr 26	Adults & Family	Spring Bird Identification Walk at Barn Island	10 am - Noon
Apr 29	6 & up	Glaciers [afterschool]	4 - 5:15 pm
Apr 30	4 - 6	Rain, Rain Come Today	1 - 3 pm
May 4	Adults & Family	Spring Birds and Wildflowers at the Grill's Preserve in Bradford, RI	10 am - Noon
May 7	6 & up	Ponds and Vernal Pools - what's the difference?[afterschool]	4 - 5:15 pm
May 10	Adults & Family	Long Pond, Ell Pond Hike	9:30 - 11:30 am
May 10	Adults & Family	International Migratory Bird Day- Walk and coffee at DPNC	10 - 11:30 am
May 13	4 - 6	Discovery Tuesday Session 6	9:30 - 11:30 am
May 13	6 & up	Birds in the Wind - the Science of Flight	1 - 3 pm
May 14	3	Butterflies 6	9:30 - 11:30 am
May 14	4 - 6	Fun with Mud	1 - 3 pm
May 15	1 (walking) to 4 *	Cottontails 6	10 - 11 am
May 15	4 - 6	Discovery Thursday Session 6	1 - 3 pm
May 16	2 to 3 *	Hummingbirds 6	10 - 11:30 am
May 18	Adults & Family	Birding in the Borderlands: Explore an old growth hemlock forest	10 am - Noon
May 20	Adults & Family	Full Planting Moon	8-9 pm
May 20	6 & up	The Beautiful life of Bees [Afterschool]	4 - 5:15 pm
May 20	4 - 6	Dragonflies	1 - 3 pm
May 22	Adults	Lady Slipper Walk at the Peace Sanctuary	6-8:00 pm
May 29	4 and up	Wonderful Flowers [homeschool]	1 - 3 pm

* with a caregiver

More DPNC News

DPNC Wish List

Bullhorn (loud hailer) for spot announcements at outdoor events.
Children's books about nature.
Vermont Garden Carts
Picnic Tables
Flat Panel Monitor
Laptop Computer for Education
Fencing materials

For the Pre-School

Covers for the sand & water tables
Juice
Prism
Snow Gauge
Dip Nets
Bug Nets
Left over paper plates & bowls for crafts
Craft supplies of all kinds

Green Tips!

The DPNC preschool participates in the Staples Recycle for Education Program. Please bring your empty ink and toner cartridges to be turned into cash for our preschool. Cartridges can be dropped off downstairs in the main building.

Did you know?

Every year 100 million trees are chopped down for junk mail sent to your homes. Contact Dmchoice.org/mps to have your name removed from their mailing lists.

Move over, Tupperware. The EcoMom party has arrived, with its ever-expanding "to do" list that includes preparing waste-free school lunches; lobbying for green building codes; transforming oneself into a "locovore," eating locally grown food; and remembering not to idle the car when picking up children from school (if one must drive). Learn more at <http://eco-chick.com/>

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

109 Pequotsepos Road
P.O. Box 122
Mystic, CT 06355

Phone: (860) 536-1216

Fax: (860) 536-2983

e-mail: info@dpnc.org

www.dpnc.org

Hours

Monday – Saturday

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Staff

Margarett Jones - Executive Director
Bruce Anderson - Exhibits & Buildings
Chris Anderson - Store Manager & Office Administrator
Al Brown - Publications & Tech Support
Misty Carhart - Educator
Sanny Chacanaca - Front Desk
Mike Madura - Dir. of Communications
Lily Meadows - Educator
Mary Meier - Educator
Maggie Pearson - Preschool Teacher
Laurie Ryan - Front Desk
Steve Sarnoski - Educator/Animal Care
Kim Hargrave - Director of Education
Davnet Schaffer - Preschool Director & Head Teacher
Mayada Wadsworth - Finance Director

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Dr. Peter Steelman

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Anne Collier
Jean Evans

Have Your Birthday Party at DPNC

A wildly good party for kids of all ages! Children and adults alike love to celebrate at the Nature Center. Parties include a 45-minute nature program and time outside, plus admission to the museum for all of your guests and 2 hours of reserved space. Popular themes include:

Meet the Animals
Scavenger Hunt
Peek into a Pond

Fairy Houses
Animal Tracking
Inspect an Insect

Or customize a party to your favorite nature theme or animal!

Call 536-1216 for more info or to book your party.



Become a Corporate Sponsor!

Demonstrate your commitment to the Nature Center by sponsoring special events, the Chickadee newsletter, and programs that help us continue to nurture our message of environmental awareness.

- For \$135-175, you can become a Chickadee newsletter patron which includes a 1 year membership.
- For \$350, your business can become a newsletter patron and have a sponsorship listing in our annual Natural History calendar
- For \$500 or more, be a major sponsor of a special event, like our Earth Day Celebration, Mushroom Festival, or Silent Auction

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE NATURE CENTER, PLEASE CALL MIKE
Our Marketing & Communications Director at (860) 536-1216 x13.

Chickadee Patrons

Chickadee Patrons help defray the cost of this newsletter. Patron donations are \$135 per year for individuals and \$175 for businesses, and are invaluable to the Nature Center. *Thanks to all our patrons!*

New Patrons

Your Name or Company

Can be here in the next issue

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(860)536-5220

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Advantage Personal Training
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(860) 245-0388

Bob Valenti Auto Mall
72 Jerry Browne Road, Mystic
(860) 536-4931

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(860) 536-2626

Laurel A. Butler, V.P. - Wealth Management
June D. Strunk, 2nd V.P. Wealth Management
Citigroup Smith Barney
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Children's Dental Associates
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190 Hempstead Street, New London

D.B. Electric, Inc.
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Densmore Oil
Mystic, CT
(860) 536-7927

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Groton, CT
(860) 445-1330

Four Paws Veterinary Services
P.O. Box 613, Mystic
(860) 235-6244

Frank's Service Station
30 Broadway, Mystic
(860) 536-0393

Highland Orchards RV
Rt. 49 N., North Stonington
877-599-8922

Mrs. Lucia T. Johnstone
Prudential CT - Pequot Properties
(860) 536-4906 x154

Atty. Philip M. Johnstone
Waller, Smith & Palmer, P.C.
(860) 442-0367

Kane Building Co., Inc.
Michael Kane
Groton, CT (860) 445-5263

Mercer & Bertsche
Architecture & Engineering
135 Rt 27 Old Mystic
(860) 536-0632

Mystic Yoga Shala (Amy Zezulka)
Quiambog Cove, 107 Wilcox Rd, Ste 109
(860) 536-0237
www.mysticyogashala.com

O'Brien, Shafner, Stuart, Kelly & Morris, Eppinger P.C.
475 Bridge St. Ext., Groton
(860) 445-2463

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(860) 536-5231

Waitte's Insurance Agency
116 Broadway, Norwich
(860) 886-1961

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Stonington Veterinary Hospital
785 Stonington Rd., Stonington
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