



# The Chickadee



June - July - August 2009

Newsletter of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Mystic, CT

Vol 37 No 4

## Eco-Evening Garden Party at Ender's Island

to Benefit DPNC Environmental Programs

Tuesday, July 28

5-7:30 pm

Members \$25

Non-Members \$30

The intriguing rock gardens and colorful flower beds of this 11-acre island situated in Fisher's Island Sound provide a unique and wonderful setting for our summer fund-raiser. The event will feature fresh locally grown vegetables and fruits of land and sea, wine, beer, organic teas and tastings.



## Daylilies at Blue Flag Farm

Friday, July 17

9 a.m. at DPNC

Led by Maggie Jones

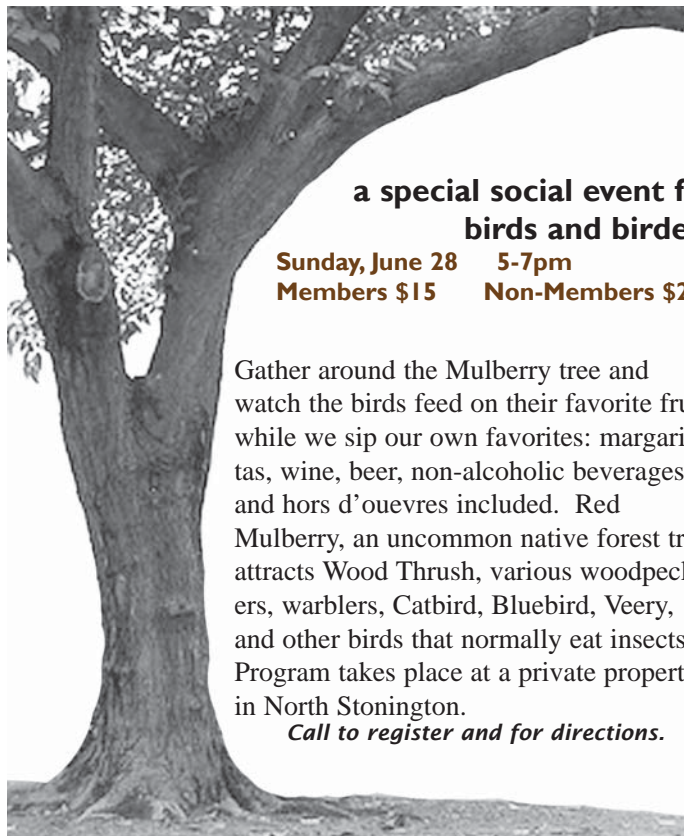
Adults

Members \$5

Non-Members \$8

Witness a spectacular display of colorful and (practically) carefree perennials on this morning outing to the garden of local daylily aficionado, Marion Miller. After a guided tour of the beds, organized by color palette, participants will have an opportunity to purchase interesting and unusual varieties of daylily plants. Here's a chance to get some gardening tips from a pro!

## Mulberries & Margaritas



a special social event for  
birds and birders

Sunday, June 28

5-7pm

Members \$15

Non-Members \$20

Gather around the Mulberry tree and watch the birds feed on their favorite fruit while we sip our own favorites: margaritas, wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and hors d'oeuvres included. Red Mulberry, an uncommon native forest tree, attracts Wood Thrush, various woodpeckers, warblers, Catbird, Bluebird, Veery, and other birds that normally eat insects. Program takes place at a private property in North Stonington.

*Call to register and for directions.*

## Father's Day

Summer Solstice Beach Walk at Watch Hill

Sunday, June 21

7-9pm

FREE

Watch for activity of oystercatchers, terns and other shore birds active around dusk on the longest day of the year. Meet at the entrance to Napatree Point sea wall.

*Led by Julia Royster of the Watch Hill Conservancy.*

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## Message from the Director

### Of Bats, Birds, Blossoms and Butterflies



Maggie Jones

The massive die-off of bats from Vermont to Virginia, including between 80-90% of the bats hibernating in Connecticut, is a major environmental alarm call. Bats have a vital ecological role as the chief predators of night-flying insects, including mosquitoes. Gardeners know that bats also eat grain moths, cucumber and potato beetles, and corn ear-

worms - pests that attack corn, tomatoes and pumpkins. A single Little Brown Bat can eat more than 1200 mosquitoes and other insects in an hour, providing one of the most effective natural controls for farm and forest ecosystems. Few (or no) bats around during the summer months poses the potentially serious threats of increased insect-borne illnesses (like West Nile virus and equine encephalitis), crop damage, and an associated increase in the use of pesticides.

At this time, no one knows why bats are dying, or what is causing the mysterious white fungus that seems to be associated with the dying bats. Attics and eaves may harbor some survivors, helping to prevent total extinction of our native bats. However, most of the bats that breed in Connecticut during the warmer months migrate to caves elsewhere in New England or New York that have been particularly hard-hit, so it is impossible to know the extent of this calamity. As the weather warms in April and May, bats commute to a maternity roost. If your barn or house has bats during the summer, these are probably all females. The bats flying around our houses in late summer are most likely pups that have just learned to fly. Because bats reproduce slowly (one baby per year) and are long lived (30-40 years), they are exceptionally vulnerable to extinction.

We anxiously await news of local bat activity as the weather warms. Certainly the 'white nose syndrome' devastation is among the most serious environmental problems we have faced. While bats are critical for insect control in temperate climates, in the tropics bats pollinate plants and disperse seeds. Avocados, bananas, cashews, mangoes and tequila (from Agave) are just a few of the plant products requiring bats for pollination or seed dispersal.

Here, we rely on butterflies, bees and other insects to pollinate flowers and food crops- and many of our local pollinators have also declined. With a grant from the Mystic

Garden Club and the help of landscape gardener and StoneRidge resident Lois Poinier, we are renovating our wild-flower garden, with new native plantings attractive to butterflies and birds. Because of the diversity of habitats around DPNC, we already have many of the larval host foods in forest, edge and meadow, including sycamore, sassafras, maple and milkweed. The walkway leading from the Denison field to our front entry will lead through this new garden area. We are also planning a seasonal butterfly house where visitors can observe native butterflies, moths, larvae and life cycles up close. This Spring, DPNC received a donation of a fantastic butterfly collection from Mr. Robert C. Hess in memory of his wife, Olive. Collected during the early 20th century, many of the species are now rare or endangered.

Birds have always been the traditional indicators of environmental problems, in part because they are such active and visible components of our landscape. *An estimated one third of the bird species in America are endangered, threatened or in serious decline.* Birds of grasslands, early successional habitats and coastal species are most at risk. These losses are the direct result of human activity, development, pollution, and loss or degradation of habitat. Given the unprecedented rate of species' extinction that has occurred as our human population has grown, it is difficult to imagine that the bat die off is not related to some human activity. Consider the toxic consequences of DDT and other pesticide residues and the impact on the food chain, identified just a few decades ago, and its threat to wildlife populations. Nature is resilient, and humans have the capacity to solve complex environmental problems that we created. Changing human behavior made possible the return of the osprey, peregrine falcon and bald eagle, but use of harmful chemical organo-chlorine insecticides continues, and may be increasing in other countries. We have a long way to go as a society in terms of making responsible choices affecting the environment that we will bequeath to future generations.

It is not difficult to ask for support for the things you believe in, especially when those things are in trouble. A loss of bats, butterflies and birds, and the plants they serve, has the potential to jeopardize whole ecosystems of plants and animals, and threatens human economies.

At DPNC, we are nurturing future bat conservationists, lepidopterists, botanists, orchid protectors and ornithologists. We are giving children the tools they will need to understand and solve problems that we cannot even imagine. Your support of DPNC enables us to prepare today's young people to respond to tomorrow's challenges, and to protect the planet that nurtures life as we know it.

*Please contribute as generously as you can to our spring appeal.*



## Women's Hiking

9:30 am      **Members \$8/per    Non-Members \$10/per**

For women who love to be outdoors. Enjoy fitness, camaraderie and learn about plants and animals that inhabit our part of Southeastern Connecticut. Join us for one or all of the hikes. Infants in front or back carriers are welcome, except on starred hikes.

Mon, Jun 8	Ninigret National Wildlife Ref, Charlestown, RI
Sat, Jun 20	Oswegatchie Hills, Waterford
Mon, Jul 6	Beebe Pond, Groton
Sat, Jul 18	Hartman Park, Lyme
Sat, Aug 8	Long Pond, Ell Pond**, Hopkinton, RI
Sat, Aug 15	Riverwood, Westerly, RI

\*\* = no children in carriers

## Family Drop-in Programs

**Fridays, 10am**      **Families**  
**Members \$5/per**      **Non-Members \$7/per**  
**Member Family Max \$20/per    NonMem Fam Max \$28/per**  
*June 19, July 10 and August 14th are FREE thanks to a generous grant from the New London Water Authority*

Enjoy family time together at various program sites through the area. We will take a hands-on approach, so be sure to dress appropriately and bring a water bottle and sunscreen!

June 19	Pond Life at Bates Woods, New London ***FREE***
June 26	Amphibian Search at Nature Center, Mystic
July 3	Seining at Bluff Point State Park, Groton
July 10	Hike the Arboretum at Connecticut College, New London ***FREE***
July 17	Pond Life at the Nature Center, Mystic
July 31	Rock Fun at Glacier Park, Ledyard
August 7	Hike the Nature Center, Mystic
August 14	Seining at Mitchell Beach, New London ***FREE***
August 21	Insects at Manatuck Preserve, Stonington

## CT Trails Day - 2 Free Hikes

### DPNC Ledge Trail

**Saturday, June 6      10-11:30      Steve Sarnoski**

Bring the family as we hike the Ledge Trail at Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Along the way we will visit Hidden Pond, explore red maple swamps and look for signs of local wildlife.

### Birds & Blossoms

**Groton's Copp Property, Route 184, Groton**  
**Saturday, June 6      10-11:30      Maggie Jones**

Bring your binoculars to look for a variety of birds on this walk through shrubland, woodland and Mountain Laurel thickets (should be in full bloom).  
*Park at main entrance across from Gungywamp Rd.*

## Summertime Family Hike

**at Nehantic State Forest**

**Sunday, July 12      1 - 2:30 pm**  
**Members \$5      Non-Members \$7**  
**Member Family max \$20    NonMem Fam Max \$28**

Enjoy a summer afternoon as we explore the trails at Nehantic State Forest in East Lyme. As we hike we'll keep our eyes open for summer discoveries such as toads, insects, birds and more.



*Scarlet Tanager*

## Birding Trips

### Riverwood Preserve

**Friday June 5      8am in Ashaway RI.**  
**Members \$5      Non-Members \$8**  
*Co-sponsored by Westerly Land Trust*

Enjoy a scenic morning walk along the Pawcatuck River, through woodlands and over rocky outcrops as we look and listen for late migrants and resident breeding birds, including Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, Eastern Wood Pewee, Ovenbird and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Call for directions, or visit [Westerlylandtrust.org](http://Westerlylandtrust.org) for map. Park off Old Hopkinton Road, near the beginning of Boy Scout Drive.

### Barn Island

**Thursday June 11      6:30-8 am**  
**Members \$5      Non-Members \$8**

If you really want to hear the birds, you have to start early. On this weekday walk, you can still get to work on time. Meet at the last parking area on the right before the boat launch.

## Full Moon Hikes

**Adult & Family**

Free guided walks led by DPNC staff every full moon! Walks take place even on overcast nights, and are suitable for adults and older, interested children. Rain cancels.



**All Full Moon Walks are Free**

## Full Strawberry Moon

**at Barn Island**

**Sunday, June 7 8 pm - 9 pm**

Listen for the Whippoorwill and look for Horseshoe Crabs and snapping turtle laying eggs as nighttime falls.

## Full Buck Moon

**at Haley Farm State Park**

**Tuesday, July 7 8-9pm**

During this walk along the edges of Palmer's Cove, we will look for osprey, owls and herons active at dusk, and listen for the sounds of early summer insects in meadows and marshes. Moonrise is at 8:48pm, the latest of the year.

*Meet at the Haley Farm parking lot off Brook Street, Noank.*

## Full Sturgeon Moon

**at Avalonia's Knox Preserve**

**Wednesday, August 5 7-8pm**

If skies are clear, we can watch the moon rise over Fisher's Island Sound.

*Park on Wilcox Road in Stonington, near preserve entrance.*



## Horseshoe Crab Walk

**at Napatree Point**

**Sunday, June 7 7 pm - 10 pm**

**\$10 per family (Aquarium or Nature Center Members)**

At this time each year hundreds of horseshoe crabs crawl on to the beaches of New England. Join Denison Pequotsepos and Mystic Aquarium educators on a full moon walk at Napatree Point, Watch Hill, Rhode Island to see this natural wonder and to discover why this phenomenon occurs. Be prepared to get wet feet and hike a distance!

## Batty Evening & Overnight

**A Bat Concert, Walk and Overnight Stay for One or All!**

**Friday, August 14**

**Concert begins at 6:30 pm**

**Concert & Walk**

**Members:**

**\$10 adults, \$7 children**

**Family Max \$34**

**Non-members:**

**\$12 adults, \$9 children**

**Family Max \$42**

**Concert, Walk and Overnight**

**Members: \$50/family. Non-members: \$60/family.**

Bring the family and enjoy a "Batsong" performance by Musical Mark. The show is a blend of music, comedy, and education with lots of surprises. Musical Mark will perform in his bat costume and get the audience singing along with "Matt the Bat", "Batsong Rap-a-long" and "Got Guano?" for starters.

After the concert, join Nature Center staff for a hike along our trails and into the fields searching for bats and learning more about their essential role in the ecosystem and the current threats they face. We'll bring along the bat detector to see if we can hear their sounds as they swoop looking for insects.

Continue the nocturnal fun after the hike by spending the night at the Nature Center with your family. We'll learn more about other nocturnal animals such as owls and moths, test our night senses and wrap up the evening with s'mores around the campfire. In the morning you can enjoy an early morning walk or sleep in and join us for a quick breakfast before packing up.

## Firefly Hike

**Friday, June 26**

**7:45 pm**

**Members \$5**

**Non-Members \$7**

**Member Family max \$20**

**NonMem Fam Max \$28**

Learn more about this fascinating bioluminescent insect before heading out through the woods and trails of the Nature Center to see what fireflies we can observe and catch.

## Night Hike at the Grill's Preserve

**in Bradford RI**

*Co-sponsored by the Westerly Land Trust.*

**Wednesday, August 12**

**7-9pm**

Listen to the night sounds of katydids, crickets and other insects. Perhaps we will see a shooting star from atop Big Hill (it is the Perseid meteor shower).

*Meet at the entrance to the Grill's Preserve, at the end of Bowling Lane in Bradford.*

# A River Runs Through It

Summertime and the rivers are calling! What better way to see southern New England than floating some of the local waters. Some are salty, some are fresh water, but all can refresh, revive and reconnect you with nature.

- All trips are BYOB (bring your own boat & lunch).

## Return to the Pawcatuck River

### Richmond Landing to Bradford

**Saturday, June 6** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Led by Al Brown** Adults  
**Members \$18** Non-Members \$20

*Meet at DPNC at 9 am or at the put-in at 9:45.*

This is approximately a 9 mile downstream trip. The early season higher flow rates will speed us up a little. There is a low rubble dam at Barberville that can be run or avoided, as you wish. The lowest section above the Bradford dam is quiet water paddling along scenic forested banks. This is a one-way trip downriver with a return shuttle.

## Float the Wood River

### Rt. 165 to Wyoming Pond

**Saturday, June 20** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Led by Al Brown** Adults  
**Members \$18** Non-Members \$20

*Meet at DPNC at 9 am or at the put-in at 9:30.*

The Wood River is a beautiful wooded stream with a couple of dams that form ponds along the way. There are lots of fun riffles along this shallow river and plenty of sun while crossing the ponds. There is a short portage around the Barberville Dam. A vehicle shuttle will enable us to float one-way downstream.

## The Pawcatuck Continues

### Bradford to Potter Hill

**Saturday, July 11** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Led by Al Brown** Adults  
**Members \$18** Non-Members \$20

*Meet at DPNC at 9 am or at the put-in at 9:45.*

*Co-Sponsored by the Westerly Land Trust*

We portage around the Bradford Dam and go downstream to Potter Hill. Along the way we will pass conservation lands owned by The Nature Conservancy and the Westerly Land Trust. This is a one-way trip downriver with a return shuttle.

## Pawcatuck to the Sea

### Potter Hill to Westerly

**Saturday, July 25** 9 - 3 p.m.  
**Led by Al Brown** Adults  
**Members \$18** Non-Members \$20

*Meet at DPNC at 9 or  
Maxson Ave at the Potter Hill dam at 9:30*

See the other Westerly - the one only seen from the river. You will float past farm fields, wooded wetlands and the historic parts of Westerly like you may have never seen. There are a couple of swift water (Class II) rapids around old dams. The take-out is at the boat launch in downtown Westerly. About 8 miles.

## The Upper Pawcatuck

### Shannock Falls to Burdickville

**Saturday, August 8** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Led by Al Brown** Adults  
**Members \$18** Non-Members \$20

*Meet at DPNC at 9 am or at the put-in at 9:30.*

One of our favorite runs of the season, this 10.5 mile section of the Pawcatuck has a nice mix of calm flowing water punctuated with one little section of Class II white-water, which makes it a trip to remember! Much of the river flows through forests with occasional beaver, deer or otter signs along the banks.

## Paddle the Mighty Mystic River

### Old Mystic to Williams Beach

**Saturday, August 22** 10 - 3 p.m.  
**Led by Al Brown** Adults & Family  
**Members \$15** Non-Members \$18

*Meet at DPNC at 10 am or at the put-in at 10:15.*

O.K., So the Mystic is not a "real" river, but it still looks and feels like one. The water flows to the sea and then flows back again with the tide. Most of the time we will follow the tide out, as we go down river. We hope to have the wind behind us. We float past the Peace Sanctuary, Mystic Seaport, under the Mystic River bridge and past other historic and scenic places.

## Shorebirds of Summer by Kayak

### at Charlestown Pond in Rhode Island

**Tuesday, August 25** 8-11 am  
**Led by Maggie Jones** Adults  
**Members \$10** Non-Members \$12

By August, many sandpipers and other shorebirds that passed through heading North in April are heading back to South America. The exposed flats, tidal marshes and beaches in and around Charlestown Pond offer opportunities to see many different species up close. Bring binoculars and be prepared to climb in and out of your boat (sometimes the water is so shallow, we have to pull our boats). Meet at the public boat launch, on the right just over the bridge, before the Charlestown Beach parking lot.

# Summer Kids Programs

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

**All two hour programs have 2 age groups:**

**3-5 years and 6 and up**

**1-3 pm   Members \$15   Non-Members \$18**

We will spend lots of time outside. Please dress your children appropriately and have them bring a water bottle. All programs include a snack. If your child has a food allergy, please provide your own snack.

A limited number of scholarships are available. Please ask if you need assistance paying for these or other programs.

## Clever Crows

**June 17**

Meet our resident crows and discover how smart these birds really are.

## Fairy Gardens

**June 23**

Learn more about the little plants that grow on the forest and meadow floor and create a miniature garden to bring home.

## Pond Life

**June 25**

Use a net to discover what creatures are living in the pond. Frogs, fish and aquatic invertebrates will be a few of our discoveries.

## Bobcats

**July 1**

Discover the secret world of bobcats. Learn where they live, what they eat, and how to spot their tracks.

## Shells

**July 7**

Learn about our local shells, what animals live in them, and create a beautiful project to bring home.

## Rainbows

**July 9**

Find out why rainbows form in the sky as we use prisms to create our own. Then spend time on the trails discovering all the colors nature has to offer.

## Honeybees

**July 15**

Discover how bees make honey and try some of their tasty treat before heading to the meadow to see if we can spot any of our bee friends.

## Hummingbirds

**July 21**

Learn more about the only bird that can fly backwards and whose heart can beat over 1000 times a minute.

## Black Rat Snakes

**July 23**

Learn about one of New England's largest snakes, meet a live snake, and go on a snake search.

## Darting Dragonflies

**July 29**

Discover the amazing life cycles of dragonflies as we take a closer look at this important insect.

## Fish Printing

**August 4**

Try your hand at fish printing as we all make bags to bring home while learning about our local fish.

## Dinosaur Plants

**August 6**

Find out about plants such as ferns, mosses and horsetails that were around when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. We will also learn which dinosaurs liked to eat them.

## Super Shadows

**August 12**

Discover how shadows are formed and why they change throughout the day. We will also create shadow puppets.

## Box Turtles

**August 18**

Meet the Nature Center's box turtles and learn about their lives.

## Beautiful Butterflies

**August 20**

Explore the symmetry of a butterfly as we look for butterflies in the meadows and explore the Nature Center's new butterfly exhibits.

## DPNC Summer Camp

Summer is the perfect time to get outside and back to nature. Our camp strives to get children ages 3 – 15 outside in a play-based camp environment, where having fun and playing in nature comes first. In our planned neighborhoods and scheduled lives, unstructured outdoor play is often overlooked, but our camp provides this opportunity for all of our campers. DPNC summer camp builds the foundation for a lifetime of love and respect for the environment.

Your kids will hike, pond dip, seine for fish and crustaceans, learn about our area's most interesting frogs, butterflies, rock formations, salamanders and more! We have several exciting new camps this year including Twilight Camp, Family Camp Days, and Science Explorations Camp.

Camp sessions fill up fast...so register early. Brochures and registration forms are available at: [dpnc.org/summer\\_camp.html](http://dpnc.org/summer_camp.html). We encourage you to print, fill out and fax your child's camp & medical form to (860) 536-2983.



*Adventurers launching in the Pawcatuck River.*

## The Denison Farm Market

The Denison Farm Market will be running again all summer. Be sure and stop by the large field next to the Denison Homestead on Pequotsepos Road every Sunday from **Noon and 3pm from June 1st to the end of October, plus Thanksgiving, of course.**

**Some of the items you may find here that you cannot live without include...**

**Fresh or frozen seafood products caught locally, Lamb, Goat, Pork and Beef, Certified Humane Broiler chickens, Cornish Broilers, Dressed Pheasants, Eggs.**

**Organic veggies of all sorts, herbs, cut flowers, sprouting lentils, mung beans, garbanzo beans, red winter wheat berry, pea shoots, buckwheat, lettuce, spicy Asian mix, Thai basil, and potatoes.**

**Salt Marsh Hay, corn, Maple syrup products, Beauty products. Handcrafted natural herb products, including hand lotions, lipbalms, soap, herbal pillows, garlic and specialty container gardens, seedlings, fruit.**

**Jams, jellies, relishes, organic blueberries, baking mixes, Johnny Cake meal, salsa, honey & beeswax.**

**Assorted bread, Portugese sweet bread, cookies, fruit pies, sweet bread, anginetti and vienna cookies, peanut butter balls, apple strudel, stuffed breads, and cannoli.**

**Ice Cream, Fudge, Smoothies**

These products are grown, produced or prepared by your friends and neighbors.

*If you come to Mystic for the weekend, why not stop by and stock up on fresh produce before you hop on I-95?*

## Follow DPNC Online

### Facebook

DPNC is now on Facebook. Our fan page is continually updated with the latest programs, special messages and photos. You can even share your own DPNC experiences or trade information with other members about good hiking and camping spots, bird and other wildlife sightings, or ways to live a greener lifestyle. Become a fan of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center today! Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center".

### E-Newsletter

Be among the first to know about the latest DPNC news, events and programs. Just go to [dpnc.org](http://dpnc.org) and enter your email address in the sign-up box near the bottom of the page. We will never provide your email address to any other organization, and you will only receive occasional email messages from DPNC.

# Programs at a Glance

<u>Date</u>	<u>for ages</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>time</u>
6/4	5 to 7	Birds - <i>Homeschool</i> - Life Cycles	1 - 3 p.m.
6/4	8 to 12	Permanent Ponds - <i>Homeschool</i> - Freshwater Life	1 - 3 p.m.
6/5	Adults	<b>Riverwood Preserve Birding</b>	8 a.m.
6/6	All Ages	<u>CT Trails Day - 2 Free Hikes - DPNC Ledge Trail or Groton's Copp Property</u>	10 - 11:30 a.m.
6/6	Adults	<u>Return to the Pawcatuck River - Richmond Landing to Bradford</u>	9 - 3 p.m.
6/7	Adults & Family	<u>Horseshoe Crab Walk at Napatree Point</u>	7 - 10 p.m.
6/8	Women	<u>Women's Hiking Ninigret National Wildlife Ref, Charleston, RI</u>	9:30 a.m.
6/11	Adults	<b>Barn Island Birding</b>	6:30 - 8 a.m.
6/17	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Clever Crows	1 - 3 p.m.
6/18	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Avalonia's Pafford Preserve, Stonington	10 - 11 a.m.
6/19	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Pond Life at Bates Woods, New London.	10 a.m.
6/20	Women	<u>Women's Hiking - Oswegatchie Hills, Waterford</u>	9:30 a.m.
6/20	Adults	<u>Float the Wood River - Rt. 165 to Wyoming Pond</u>	9 a.m - 3 p.m.
6/21	Adults & Family	<u>Father's Day Summer Solstice Walk at Watch Hill</u>	7 - 9 p.m.
6/23	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Fairy Gardens	1 - 3 p.m.
6/25	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Pond Life.	1 - 3 p.m.
6/25	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Avalonia's Preston Nature Preserve, Preston.	10 - 11 a.m.
6/26	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Amphibian Search at Nature Center, Mystic.	10 a.m.
6/26	Adults & Family	Firefly Hike	7:45 p.m.
6/28	Adults	<b>MULBERRIES AND MARGARITAS</b> - Special social event for birds & birders	5 - 7 p.m.
7/1	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Bobcats.	1 - 3 p.m.
7/2	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Haley Farm State Park, Groton	10 - 11 a.m.
7/3	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Seining at Bluff Point State Park, Groton	10 a.m.
7/6	Women	<u>Women's Hiking - Beebe Pond, Groton</u>	9:30 a.m.
7/7	Adults & Family	<b>Full Buck Moon at Haley Farm State Park</b>	8 - 9 p.m.
7/7	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Shells.	1 - 3 p.m.
7/9	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Rainbows.	1 - 3 p.m.
7/9	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Rhododendron Sanct. Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown	10 - 11 a.m.
7/10	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Hike the Arboretum at Connecticut College	10 a.m.
7/11	Adults	<i>The Pawcatuck Continues - Bradford to Potter Hill</i>	9 - 3 p.m.
7/12	Adults & Family	Summertime Family Hike at Nehantic State Forest.	1 - 2:30 p.m.
7/15	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Honeybees	1 - 3 p.m.
7/16	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Bluff Point State Park, Groton	10 a.m. 11 a.m.
7/17	Adults	<b>Daylilies at Blue Flag Farm</b>	9 a.m.
7/17	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Pond Life at the Nature Center, Mystic	10 a.m.
7/18	Women	<u>Women's Hiking - Hartman Park, Lyme</u>	9:30 a.m.
7/21	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Hummingbirds	1 - 3 p.m.
7/23	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Black Rat Snakes	1 - 3 p.m.
7/23	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Hartman Park, Lyme	10 - 11 a.m.
7/25	Adults	<u>Pawcatuck to the Sea - Potter Hill to Westerly</u>	9 a.m - 3 p.m.
7/28	Adults	<b>ECO-EVENING GARDEN PARTY AT ENDER'S ISLAND</b>	5 - 7:30 p.m.
7/29	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Darting Dragonflies	1 - 3 p.m.
7/30	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Avery Preserve, Ledyard	10 - 11 a.m.
7/31	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Rock Fun at Glacier Park, Ledyard	10 a.m.
8/4	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Fish Printing	1 - 3 p.m.
8/5	Adults & Family	<b>Full Sturgeon Moon at Avalonia's Knox Preserve</b>	7 - 8 p.m.
8/6	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Dinosaur Plants	1 - 3 p.m.
8/6	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Avalonia's Hoffman Evergreen Preserve, Stonington.	10 - 11 a.m.
8/7	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Hike the Nature Center, Mystic	10 a.m.
8/8	Women	<u>Women's Hiking - Long Pond, Ell Pond, Hopkinton, RI</u>	9:30 a.m.
8/8	Adults	<u>The Upper Pawcatuck - Shannock Falls to Burdickville</u>	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
8/12	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Super Shadows.	1 - 3 p.m.
8/13	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Manatuck Preserve, Stonington.	10 - 11 a.m.
8/14	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Seining at Mitchell Beach, New London.	10 a.m.
<b>8/14</b>	<b>Adults &amp; Family</b>	<b>Batty Evening &amp; Overnight - A Bat Concert, Walk and Overnight</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
8/15	Women	<u>Women's Hiking - Riverwood, Westerly, RI</u>	9:30 a.m.
8/18	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Box Turtles.	1 - 3 p.m.
8/20	3 to 5 or 6 & up	Beautiful Butterflies	1 - 3 p.m.
8/20	1 - 4 with a caregiver	<i>Summertime Cottontails</i> - Avalonia's Teftweald at Bircheturn, North Stonington	10 - 11 a.m.
8/21	Family	<b>Family Drop-in Programs</b> - Insects at Manatuck Preserve, Stonington	10 a.m.
8/22	Adults & Family	<u>Paddle the Mighty Mystic River - Old Mystic to Williams Beach</u>	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
8/25	Adults & Family	<u>Shorebirds of Summer by Kayak at Charlestown Pond in Rhode Island</u>	8 - 11 a.m.

\* with a caregiver

\*\*bathroom independent † Two age groups at the same time (Pre-K-Kindergarten) & (1st grade and up)

## Early Childhood Programs

### Summertime Cottontails

Thursdays 10 - 11 am

Ages 1-4 with a caregiver

Members \$7

Non-Members \$10

Too young for Summer Nature Camp? Then join the fun of Summertime Cottontails! Each week explore a new destination at a young child's pace and make all sorts of new discoveries from hiding hermit crabs to sweet-smelling sassafras. Feel free to sign up for one or all of the programs.

June 18	Avalonia's Pafford Preserve, Stonington
June 25	Avalonia's Preston Nature Preserve, Preston
July 2	Haley Farm State Park, Groton
July 9	Rhododendron Sanctuary Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown
July 16	Bluff Point State Park, Groton
July 23	Hartman Park, Lyme
July 30	Avalonia's Avery Preserve, Ledyard
August 6	Avalonia's Hoffman Evergreen Preserve Stonington
August 13	Manatuck Preserve, Stonington
August 20	Avalonia's Teftweald at Bircheturn North Stonington

### Story Hours

#### Our Planet, Our Environment

Friday, June 5

6pm

by Suzanne Burns

Members \$5

Non-Members \$7

Your planet needs you! Join us as we celebrate World Environment Day and learn how all of our planet's nations are joining together to protect our natural resources. We will read stories and make crafts from recycled objects.

#### Horseshoe Crabs

Saturday, July 18

5pm.

by Suzanne Burns

Members \$5

Non-Members \$7

Join local author Mary Ellen Caruso in her reading of Helping Hilda Horseshoe Crab. We will learn all about these fascinating sea animals and create a horseshoe craft.

#### Insect Chorus

Saturday, August 8

8pm

by Suzanne Burns

Members \$5

Non-Members \$7

As we read stories about our singing insects, Katydid and Cicadas will serenade us in the meadow. Afterwards, we will head back inside to make a musical craft.

## DPNC News

### Who Cooks for You?

#### Submit Recipes for First-Ever DPNC Cookbook

The Nature Center is putting together its very first cookbook – and we want your recipes! In addition to accepting entries in traditional categories (e.g. appetizers, soups & salads, main dish, dessert, etc.) we also plan to include sections on Wild Edibles, Local Harvest, Feeding our Furry & Feathered Friends, and more. A separate section will offer recipes for natural alternatives to cleaning and personal care products. We are looking for recipes in all categories.

Our preference is to feature recipes that include natural, organic, or locally grown foods (however, if your great Aunt Betsy makes the best Coconut Cream Pie you've ever had, please go ahead and send it). Submit your recipes by email to [info@dpnc.org](mailto:info@dpnc.org) or drop them off at the front desk.

*Deadline for submissions is August 15th.*

### Can You Sew?

DPNC is looking for people to sew large tablecloths and cloth napkins to be used during our birthday party programs. If you are able to help, please contact Chris Anderson at [canderson@dpnc.org](mailto:canderson@dpnc.org) or 860-536-1216

### The Great American Backyard Campout

June 27th

The Great American Backyard Campout® provides an opportunity for everyone to relive -- or to experience for the first time -- how much fun it is to spend a night sleeping under the stars and enjoying the sounds of nature. Held each June, the Great American Backyard Campout® is a national event that encourages individuals, youth, friends and families to camp out together for one night. Round up your friends plan your backyard campout today!



Kim Berry

## IN MEMORIAM

Kim Berry, wife of Mark Berry of Old Saybrook, CT passed away on March 7, 2009 at Yale New Haven Hospital after an extended illness. Kim was an Educator at DPNC and the founder of the creative writing group "Friends With Pens", formerly "Writers in the Woods" in 2002.

In addition to being a talented teacher, Kim was an artist, potter, writer and jewelry maker. She was an avid naturalist who stopped cars to help turtles cross the roads in Connecticut and rescued an abandoned baby sloth in the Amazon Rain Forest of Peru while on her honeymoon.

Kim's free spirit and love of life will continue to be an inspiration to all who knew her.

Kim's family will commemorate her life with the installation of a new stone bench at DPNC. Contributions in Kim's memory may be made to the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, PO Box 122, Mystic, CT, 06355.

## June is Leave-a-Legacy Month

**What does the Nature Center mean to you?**

June is Leave a Legacy month, and a wonderful time to think about the ways you may be able to support organizations such as DPNC, that are important to you.



A bequest reduces your taxable estate, thereby reducing estate taxes and administration fees on both the federal and state levels. In addition to bequests there are many types of planned gifts including gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and gifts of real estate or life insurance. **DPNC wants to recognize the importance and generosity of those who have decided to give to the future today.** As a member of our legacy society you enjoy the satisfaction of seeing your support play a key role in continuing improvement of the Nature Center.

Leave a Legacy™ is a statewide public awareness effort to encourage people to leave something in their wills to a cause they care about.

## SOUNDS OF SPRING

By Marjorie Kimball



The sounds of Spring are echoing throughout my restless mind. Anxious that winters storms and winds be left so far behind

Robins first appear before the snow is gone, hoping to find a worm or two, an open patch of lawn.

Salamanders cross silently to their vernal pools, and tree frogs peep incessantly much like love-struck fools.

Goldfinch sing so sweetly As they gather at my feeder, turn brighter yellow with each day beneath the solar heater.

The raucous call of crows disturbs the balmy air. They signal to each other when finding a bit of fare.

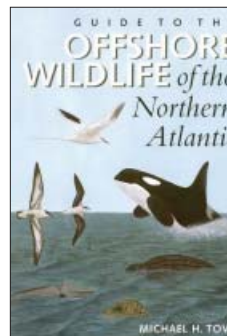
Orioles, Bluebirds and Warblers join the Springtime chorus. Their music fills the atmosphere of meadow, stream and forest

Listen to these sounds of nature, it's like a healing balm. It soothes your very being, creates a sea of calm.

Spring approaches gradually Upon the frozen earth Rejuvenating spirit, renewal, rebirth.

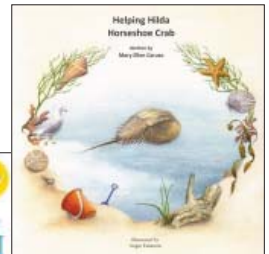
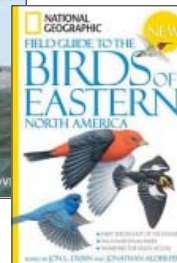
## A Few Great Books

at the Nature Center Store



Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic by Michael Tove

National Geographic Field Guide of Birds of Eastern North America



Helping Hilda Horseshoe Crab by Mary Ellen Caruso

## Wish List

Fabric Scraps  
 Paper plates, cups (can be b-day, holiday, etc.)  
 Tissues  
 Wipes  
 Colored tissue paper  
 Glue sticks  
 Tacky glue  
 Tape - (Scotch, duct, masking)  
 Games (for use during pre-camp)  
 Zoo Med Forest Floor Cypress Bedding  
 (4 qt bags found @ Bigappleherp.com or local pet stores)  
 Monetary donations to improve our reptile exhibits

Monetary donations toward a new  
 carpet for the small classroom

## Host Your Next Event at the Nature Center

The Nature Center is the perfect place for birthday parties and other celebrations for all ages.

“Thank you for having a wonderful room in which to host our baby shower. Many people complimented us for choosing to host a baby shower at the Nature Center. It was perfect! Some of our guests took a walk outdoors. Other guests enjoyed the exhibits. We were all very comfortable – almost like being at home. Many people spoke of when they used to come to the Nature Center when they were children. Best wishes for continued success in all that you do.” - Recent Baby Shower Host

To learn more about planning your next birthday party at the Nature Center, please see our website at: [dpnc.org/birthday.html](http://dpnc.org/birthday.html) or call us at (860) 536-1216.

### 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 JENNIFER**  
**Our Marketing & Communications Director at (860) 536-1216 x13.**

## 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](mailto:info@dpnc.org)  
[www.dpnc.org](http://www.dpnc.org)

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 - Office & Store Manager  
 Al Brown - Publications & Tech Support  
 Suzanne Burns - Educator  
 Sanny Chacanaca - Front Desk  
 Monica Gallego - Front Desk  
 Kim Hargrave - Director of Education  
 Kim Henderson - Educator  
 Kathy Hoy - Educator  
 Jennifer Johnson - Dir. of Communications  
 Katie McCann - Preschool Teacher  
 Lily Meadows - Educator  
 Sarah Kohrs-Monroe - Educator  
 Steve Sarnoski - Educator/Animal Care  
 Davnet Schaffer - Preschool Dir & Teacher  
 Mayada Wadsworth - Finance Director  
 Karla Zook - Front Desk

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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!*

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[www.mysticyogashala.com](http://www.mysticyogashala.com)

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[www.oldlymevets.com](http://www.oldlymevets.com)

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860.536.9600  
[www.peacockorganics.com](http://www.peacockorganics.com)

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860.536.8276

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860.536.1407

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[www.bobvalenti.com](http://www.bobvalenti.com)

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