



Branch out this fall at the Nature Center

**FORAGING WORKSHOPS | EQUINOX POETRY | PAINT & SIP
THE MOTH BALL! | FULL MOON HIKES | GARDENING WORKSHOPS
WILD MUSHROOM FESTIVAL & SPOOKY NATURE TRAILS RETURN**



DPNC Locations

**DENISON PEQUOTSEPOS
NATURE CENTER**
109 Pequotsepos Rd.
Mystic, CT 06355

COOGAN FARM
162 Greenmanville Ave.
Mystic, CT 06355

**GUNGYWAMP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE**
231 Gungywamp Rd.
Groton, CT 06340

THE PEACE SANCTUARY
233 River Rd.
Mystic, CT 06355

Program Scholarships

DPNC is pleased to offer scholarships for many of our public programs, including camp, preschool, and Neighbors & Nature. For more information, contact info@dpnc.org or (860) 536-1216.

The Chickadee Newsletter



DPNC sends out quarterly digital newsletters with the release of seasonal program catalogs, plus monthly newsletters highlighting upcoming programs, news, and Nature Notes. Scan the QR code to sign up.

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DPNC MISSION

To inspire our community
to connect with nature.

CONTACT US

www.dpnc.org
(860) 536-1216
info@dpnc.org

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A close-up photograph of a purple mushroom with a light-colored stem, growing on a forest floor covered with dry leaves and twigs. The mushroom is the central focus, with its cap showing some texture and color variations. The background is a soft-focus mix of brown and green natural elements.

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VISIT DPNC

ADULT & BIRDING PROGRAMS

Raptors of CT

Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6–7 pm

@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Get to know the raptors living in your backyard! We'll discuss Connecticut's native birds of prey, including owls, hawks, and falcons, and bring out a few of DPNC's resident animal ambassadors so you can see these raptors for yourself.

Fall Foraging with Amelia

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10 am–12:30 pm

@ DPNC

Members: \$29.75

Non-members: \$35

Learn to identify and sustainably harvest herbs and other edibles on a foraging hike through DPNC trails.

Join Amelia South, the No-BS Herbalist, a local herbalist and foraging instructor from Black Sun Farm in Killingly.

Fall Equinox Poetry: Praise & Hope for the Earth

Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6–7 pm

@ DPNC

FREE

Join us for an evening of poetry that will lift the heart and stir the soul. Presented by Christie Williams, Stonington's own Poet Laureate, this night is for the lovers of the natural world.

International Day of Peace

Monday, Sept. 21 at 12–1 pm

@ the Peace Sanctuary

FREE with generous support from grantors

The Peace Sanctuary is a fitting place to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. Join us for a guided walk and meditation.



Intro to Mushroom Foraging & Cultivation

Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10–11:30 am

@ DPNC

Members & non-members: \$30

Learn how to forage for edible and medicinal wild mushrooms and how to cultivate them in your own yard or home. This class will be co-taught by Amy Demers, founder of CT Foraging Club, and Steve Makowicki, founder of Two Spores Farm.

Fall Paint & Sip

Saturday, Oct. 10 at 3–5 pm

@ DPNC

Members: \$51

Non-members: \$60

Grab your favorite beverage, throw on an apron, and settle in for an evening of creativity and conversation. Local artist Pamela Gracey will guide you step-by-step through creating your own Fall themed painting. We provide the canvas, paint, and music; you just bring the drinks and a willingness to get a little messy.

GET A CRASH COURSE IN BIRDING

You'll learn tips for identifying birds by sight and sound, plus discover the best spots and times. All skill levels are welcome, and photographers love the crowd-sourced bird-spotting!

Members: \$17; **Non-members:** \$20

Barn Island

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 8–9:30 am

Haley Farm

Wed, Oct. 7 at 5:30–6:30 pm

Bluff Point

Sunday, Oct. 17 at 8–10 am

Harkness State Park

Saturday, Nov. 14 at 9–11 am

Ducks & Waterfowl at Rocky Neck

Saturday, Nov. 21 at 1–2:30 pm

Plus join us for our informational birding lessons:

Members: \$8.50; **Non-members:** \$10

Birding 101

Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6–7 pm

Winter Waterfowl 101

Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 6–7 pm



Owls of CT

Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 5–6 pm
@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Meet the owls who call CT home! We'll learn about CT's native owls and meet a few owls who live at the Nature Center.

Beaver Walk

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 4–5 pm
@ Walden Preserve

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Fall is a busy time for beavers as they work hard to fortify their lodges, build up their food stashes and repair their lodges in preparation for winter. These animals are crepuscular, becoming most active at dawn and dusk. Join us for an evening stroll at the Walden Preserve in Salem to view one of nature's most resourceful engineers!

GARDENING PROGRAMS



Starting Your Regenerative Garden

Saturday, Oct. 17 at 9–10 am
Virtual via Zoom

FREE

Transform your backyard into a self-sustaining ecosystem! Join us to learn how regenerative gardening principles can heal your soil, boost biodiversity, and produce an abundant harvest without synthetic inputs. This class is a great foundation to start your first year garden.

Seed Harvesting 101

Friday, Oct. 9 at 5–6 pm
@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Discover how to harvest, clean, and store native wild seeds to boost local biodiversity with DPNC and Wild Ones' Lydia Pan! Learn essential identification tips, ethical harvesting rules, and simple techniques to grow native plants from gathered seeds. Help preserve our local flora, one seed at a time.

Intro to Raised Bed Gardening

Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9–10 am
Virtual via Zoom

FREE

Discover the secrets to starting a thriving, high-yield garden above ground! Join us to learn all about how to design raised bed gardens for planting, companion planting, and harvesting. We'll teach you how to maintain productive raised beds using sustainable, soil-first techniques.

Native Seed Collection Walk

Friday, Oct. 16 at 1–3 pm
@ Coogan Farm

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Come along on a guided walk, led by Lydia Pan, through our cultivated areas to discover how native plants disperse their seeds in autumn. We'll learn how to spot when seeds are ripe, gather them sustainably without harming wild populations, and prepare them for sowing.

Gardening in Small Spaces: the 5-Gallon Solution

Saturday, Nov. 14 at 9–10 am
Virtual via Zoom

FREE

No yard? No problem! Container gardening in standard 5-gallon buckets is one of the simplest, most accessible ways to cultivate fresh herbs, vibrant flowers, and healthy vegetables anywhere, from an apartment balcony to a sunny patio. Join us for a lesson on bucket gardening. You'll learn how to properly prepare and drain containers, choose the right organic soil blends, maximize limited sunlight, and select high-yield plants that thrive in small spaces. Discover how growing in buckets conserves water, reduces soil-borne pests, and creates miniature habitats right outside your doorstep.

Other gardening sessions coming this winter:

Planning Your Garden, Fruit Pruning 101, Seed Starting, & more!

THE NATURE CENTER GOES TO THE MOVIES

GREEN-TIE CELEBRATION

SEPT 18TH, 6 TO 8PM ★ COOGAN FARM



WILD MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
12-4 PM**

Celebrate all things mushroom! Join us for fungi foods, educational talks, foraging walks, a Mushroom Marketplace full of local artisans, crafts, fungi-themed tattoos, and more.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Discovery Station

Discover the wonders of nature together at this inclusive, family-friendly program!

Every third Saturday of the month, move at your own pace as you explore themed activity stations, meet live animals, and examine fascinating natural artifacts. Then get creative with a hands-on craft before heading out on a self-guided hike and scavenger hunt that brings each month's topic to life!

Free with generous support from our grantors.

Meets at DPNC from 10 am–12 pm.

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, and Nov. 21



Nature Night Out

Treat your kids to a fun-filled evening in nature while you treat yourself to a night off!

We'll explore the outdoors with games, hands-on nature activities, live animal encounters, and a hike then gather around the campfire for pizza and s'mores!

Members: \$34

Non-members: \$40

Meets at DPNC from 5–8 pm.

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, and Nov. 21



Adventures in Nature

Join us every second Saturday of the month as we adventure into nature! Each month we explore a different topic.

Free with generous support from grantors. Meets at DPNC 10 am–12 pm.

To Migrate or Not?

Sept. 12

Explore which backyard birds migrate and which don't! We will discover ways to identify birds by size, color, and calls, meet our resident birds, and hike our trails to test your newfound identification skills.

Animal Myths & Lore

Oct. 10

Meet different animals who have inspired myths and lore in the region! Learn about the barn owl's curdling scream, and which bats can be found across the state! We'll end by inventing some stories of our own.

Survival Skills

Nov. 14

Learn how to survive outside in the winter. Create your own survival shelter from leaves and sticks in the woods at DPNC, spend time exploring fire building and foraging, and learn about winter survival.

SCHOOL VACATION



Ages 6-10
9 am-1 pm at DPNC

Members: \$42.50
Non-members: \$50

Dress for the weather
and pack a snack, water
bottle, and lunch.

Funky Fungi

Monday, Oct. 12

Looking for something fun for your children to do while they are off from school? Have them join us for some nature fun learning all about fungi. We will spend the day exploring habitats, meeting animals and playing games around the Nature Center.

Colors of Fall

Tuesday, Nov. 3

As the days shorten and the air feels more crisp and cool, trees transform from green into a vibrant array of reds, oranges, and yellows. But how does this change happen? Through activities, demonstrations, and a colorful hike, we'll learn all about these changes.

Nature's Engineers

Wednesday, Nov. 11

From the way birds fly to how beavers build, engineers are inspired by nature every day. We'll explore how animals and plants have influenced some of our coolest inventions then seek out inspiration to build some of our own!

FAMILY PROGRAMS



Bugs & Beyond!

Saturday, Sept. 5 at 1:30–3 pm @ DPNC

FREE

Gather your family and friends for a fun-filled adventure catching bugs and butterflies. After a brief introduction to our local insects, we'll hike out to see what we can find crawling and flying around the meadow!

Moth Ball

Friday, Sept. 4 at 7:15–9:15 pm @ DPNC

Members: \$12.75

Non-members: \$15

While butterflies get most of the daytime glory, nighttime belongs to the moths! Join us at the Nature Center after dark for a hands-on exploration into the hidden diversity of our local moth population. We're setting up custom light sheets to see who comes to visit. Help us count and catalog as many fluttering guests as we can find! There will be a small presentation, nature walk and craft as well.

A large orange circle resembling a full moon is the background for the 'Spooky Nature Trails' text. Three black bat silhouettes are flying around the circle: one at the top left, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right. The text 'SPOOKY NATURE TRAILS' is written in a large, bold, black serif font across the center of the moon.

SPOOKY NATURE TRAILS

FRI, OCT 23 &
SAT, OCT 24

Take a walk on the wild
side and discover the magic
& mischief of the forest.
Live animals, spooky crafts,
& trail adventures await!

Meet the Animals

Friday, Sept. 25 AND Friday,
Oct. 2 at 5:30–6:30 pm
@ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Get up close and personal with DPNC's amazing animal ambassadors! Bring the family to meet snakes, turtles, owls, and more as we explore their fascinating adaptations and discover the vital roles these creatures play in our ecosystems. It's a fun and educational experience for animal lovers of all ages!



Family Crabbing

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 5–7 pm @ the Peace Sanctuary

Members: \$17

Non-members: \$20

Join us for crabbing at our secret location! There will be a brief intro to basic techniques of crabbing and crab identification before we start. We'll provide the nets, bait, and lines.

Animals Prepping for Winter

Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2–3 pm @ DPNC

FREE

From wood frogs freezing solid to groundhog's hibernation, animals get through the winter in diverse ways. Learn more about our local wildlife's winter survival strategies including migration, hibernation, and dormancy.

Spooky Creatures

Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1–2 pm @ DPNC

FREE

Snakes, bats, spiders, and skunks are some of the many animals that get an undeserved reputation for being scary. Get a chance to meet some of these animals and learn why they are awesome!

Owl Prowl

Saturday, Nov. 28 at 4–5:15 pm @ DPNC

Members: \$8.50

Non-members: \$10

Fall is a great time to look and listen for owls! Bring your family to learn more about Connecticut's owls and meet one of our residents. We will take a walk, looking and listening for owls at the Nature Center. This class will be both inside and out on the trails.



Chickadees

Ages 2–4 with caregiver

Friday mornings at 9:30–11 am
Meets at DPNC

Session 1 (7 weeks)

Sept. 18 & 25; Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30
Members: \$148.75
Non-members: \$175

Session 2 (6 weeks)

Nov. 6, 13 & 20; Dec. 4, 11 & 18
Members: \$127.50
Non-members: \$150

Spend time with your little one as you learn about the natural world together! Each week we'll explore a seasonal topic, have circle time, meet live animals, go on nature walks and more! Class will meet outside on fair weather days. During inclement weather part of class time will be held inside.

Eager Explorers

Ages 2.5–4

Tuesdays or Thursdays
at 9:30–11 am
Meets at DPNC

Session 1 (7 weeks)

Tuesday: Sept. 15, 22 & 29; Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27
Thursday: Sept. 17, 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Members: \$208.25
Non-members: \$245

Session 2 (6 weeks)

Tuesday: Nov. 3, 10 & 17; Dec. 1, 8 & 15
Thursday: Nov. 5, 12 & 19; Dec. 3, 10 & 17
Members: \$178.50
Non-members: \$210

Does your child love nature? Are they ready for a drop-off class on their own? Eager Explorers is just the place to start! Through nature play, circle time, meeting animals and hikes on the trails, children learn important social, emotional and school readiness skills. Sign up for either Tuesdays or Thursdays.



Environmental Afternoons

Ages 4–15

Tuesdays at 1:30–4:30 pm

Meets at DPNC

Members: \$22.10

Non-members: \$26

Our science-based curriculum introduces students to the wonders of the natural world. New topics are covered each week through hands-on activities, meeting live animals, games and time for nature play and socialization. Sign up for one or all of the classes.

Explorers: 4–5 years

Scientists: 6–8 years

Adventurers: 9–12 years

Animal Curators: 12–15 years

Our Animal Curator program does not follow the same curriculum as above. Students are immersed in hands-on activities working with our resident and rehabilitating wildlife.

Nature Days

Ages 6–10

Thursdays at 9 am–3 pm

Meets at DPNC

Session 1 (7 weeks)

Sept. 17 & 24; Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Members: \$446.25

Non-members: \$525

Session 2 (6 weeks)

Nov. 5, 12 & 19; Dec. 3, 10 & 17

Members: \$382.50

Non-members: \$450

With Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center as our basecamp, each day will be spent exploring the forest, wetlands, meadows and gardens that make up our campus. Daily activities align with the seasons and a majority of our time will be spent outdoors.

Examples of activities include exploring the Pequotsepos Brook, searching for salamanders, using microscopes to look for organisms in the soil, nature sketching, harvesting vegetables, cooking in our teaching kitchen and meeting animals. Our science-based curriculum will be shaped by individual interests. Friendships and teamwork are emphasized as we learn together.

This program runs for the entire school year and families are encouraged to make a year-long commitment, however payments are made by the session. Once you enroll in the program, you are guaranteed a spot in the next session.

GUIDED HIKES & WALKS

Peace Sanctuary

Sunday, Sept. 6 at 12:30–1:30 pm
FREE

Explore the serene Peace Sanctuary property with a moderately challenging hike along the Mystic River. As we trek through the sanctuary, we'll delve into the area's history and diverse wildlife. Enjoy beautiful views and learn about the natural and historical significance of this hidden gem.

Full Harvest Moon

Saturday, Sept. 26 at 5:45–6:45 pm
@ Coogan Farm
FREE

Celebrate the full moon during a hike up the hill at Coogan Farm. We will explore the property and visit the Giving Garden while we wait for the full moon to rise.

Fungal Foray with Westerly Land Trust

Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 4:30–6 pm
FREE

Join DPNC and WLT to learn about local mushroom foraging. We will begin with an intro to foraging followed by a hike to identify local mushrooms on the trail.

GUNGYWAMP

Gungywamp is an archaeological site of distinct natural and cultural interest. It has rocky ridges, glacial erratics, and swamps along with stone shelters and structures whose use and origin are unknown.

DPNC holds monthly guided hikes at Gungywamp. These hikes are suited for adults and families comfortable walking two miles over uneven terrain. Moderate difficulty.

Meets at the Gungywamp trailhead: 500 Gungywamp Road, Groton.

Members: \$25.50

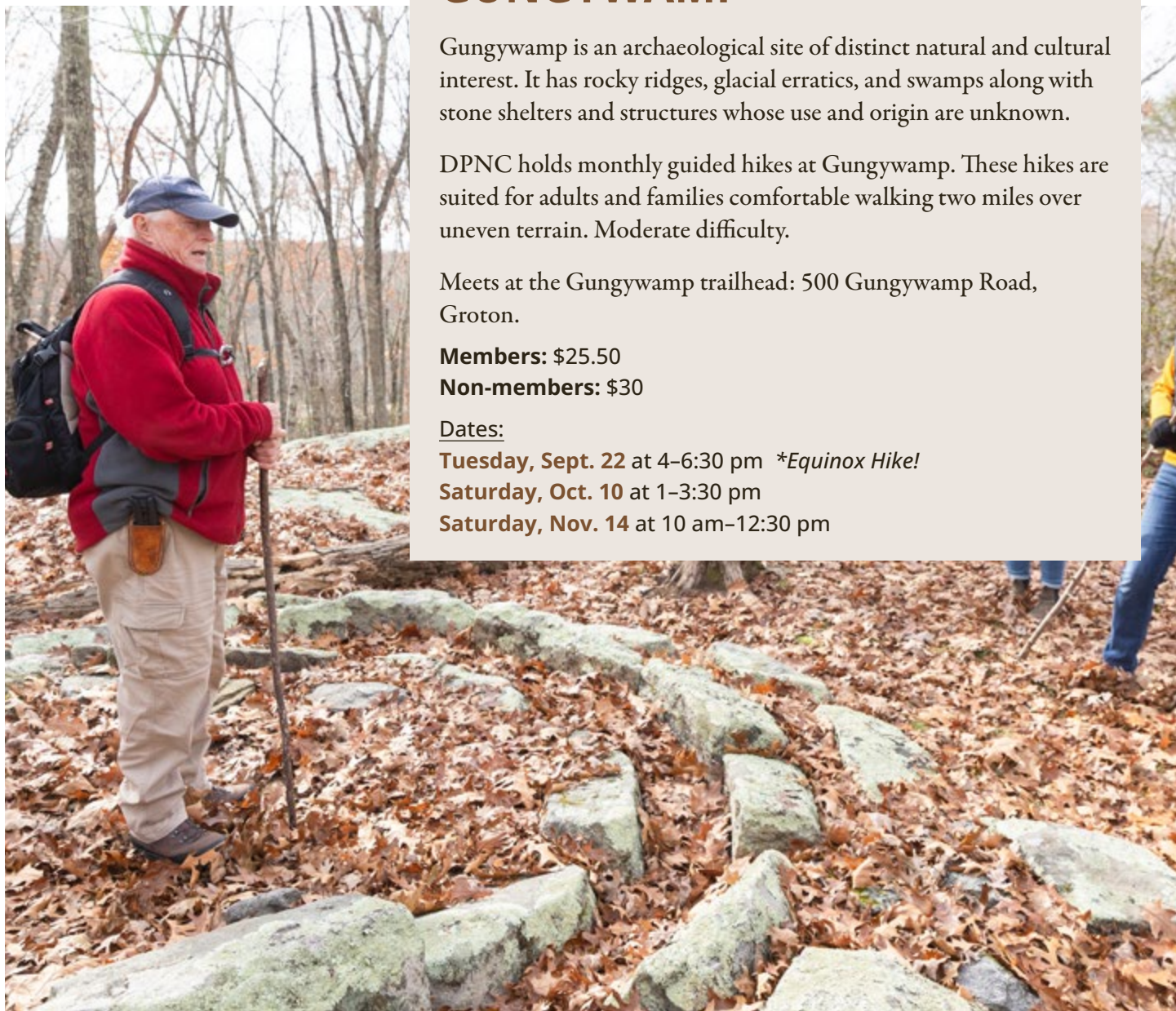
Non-members: \$30

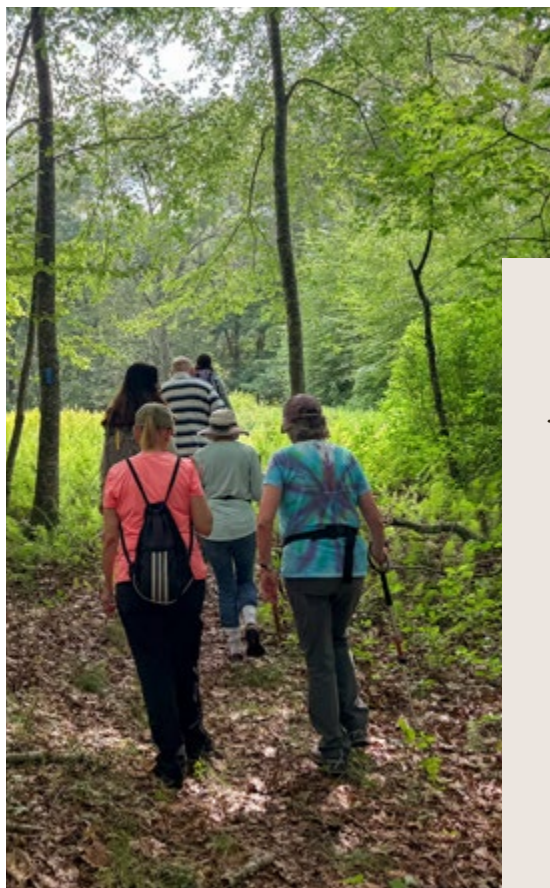
Dates:

Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 4–6:30 pm **Equinox Hike!*

Saturday, Oct. 10 at 1–3:30 pm

Saturday, Nov. 14 at 10 am–12:30 pm





Avery Farm Nature Preserve

Friday, Oct. 16 at 3–5 pm

FREE

Join GOSA and DPNC as we explore Avery Farm together, looking for local flora and fauna. This program is great for hikers of all skill levels.

Full Hunter's Moon

Monday, Oct. 26 at 5–6 pm

@ the Peace Sanctuary

FREE

Celebrate the Harvest Moon with a night hike at the Peace Sanctuary. With a DPNC educator as our guide, we'll wander the trails and wait for the moon to rise over the Mystic River.



WEEKLY WANDERERS

Join our trail meetup each week for a local nature hike. Get outdoors and connect with fellow nature lovers on beautiful local Avalonia trails. All experience levels are welcome.

9–10:30 am; FREE for all participants

Sat, 9/5: Mitchell Preserve & Reed Woodlands

Fri, 9/11: Perry Natural Areas

Fri, 9/18: Copps Brook Preserve

Fri, 9/25: Knox Family Farm

Sat, 10/3: Hoffman Evergreen Preserve

Fri, 10/9: Pequotsepos Brook Preserve

Sat, 10/17: Babcock Ridge & Erisman Woodlands

Fri, 10/23: Sheets Family Forest

Sat, 10/31: Preston Nature Preserve

Fri, 11/6: Tefftweald at Bircheturn

Sat, 11/14: Tri-town Ridgeline Forest Preserve

Fri, 11/20: Glemboski-Ous Preserve

Sat, 11/28: Atkinson Family Preserve

Stone Bridges Trail

Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2–3:30 pm

@ DPNC

FREE

Discover old quarries and follow the Pequotsepos Brook as we hike the Coogan Farm and Stone Bridges Trails.

Full Beaver Moon

Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 4–5 pm

@ the Peace Sanctuary

FREE

Celebrate the full beaver moon during a guided hike at the Peace Sanctuary.

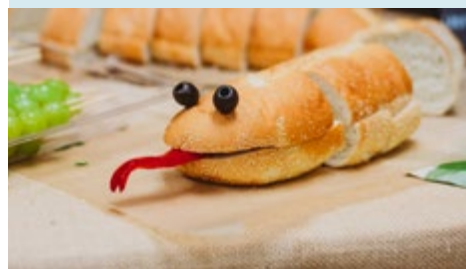


CELEBRATE YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY WITH DPNC

Our birthday parties feature your choice of live animals, natural crafts, nature walks, outdoor free play, and more! Birthday parties are scheduled for two hours, beginning with a one-hour nature program in the theme of your choice, followed by an hour of unstructured time for exploration, cake, gifts, or free play. Check out a few popular theme ideas below, or create your own!



Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting dpnc.org/birthday-parties



Critter Encounter

Our most popular theme! Meet the animals who live at DPNC, then head out for a hike, visit the birds of prey, and finish with a scavenger hunt or nature craft.

Owl Prowl

Meet a live owl, learn about their unique adaptations, and visit the bird of prey enclosures before hiking to look for signs of wild owls.

Woodland Survival

This adventure includes lots of time outside and your choice of learning campfire building, shelter building, or tracking. Learn about surviving in the woods and end the party with marshmallows around a campfire.

Pond Adventures

Use nets to explore Duck Pond led by one of our DPNC naturalists, and discover the amazing world of frogs, fish and insects. Plan on getting a little muddy!

Nocturnal Notions

Find out which animals wake up when the sun goes down! At this party we'll head outside for a night hike to test your senses and wrap up the evening around a campfire.

Beaks, Feet, & Feathers

Meet DPNC's resident birds, examine feathers up close and use binoculars to go bird watching in DPNC's woodland sanctuary.

Bugs & Butterflies

Meet a live insect, spend time in the meadows using insect nets and learning about some of our tiniest critters and create a bug craft to bring home.

Nature Fairies

Hear a story about nature fairies before heading outside to create fairy houses in the woods. Create a fairy craft to bring home.

Snakes Alive!

Meet the Nature Center's resident snakes and learn how to identify some of our native Connecticut snakes before heading outside for a snake scavenger hunt! Then complete the party with a special snake craft.

SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND GROUPS

DPNC offers year-round opportunities for children, adults, and families to connect with nature. Whether you come to us or we go to you, DPNC educators help expand understanding and appreciation of the natural world and foster scientific capability. In the classroom or in the field, learn with live animals, mounted specimens, monitoring, and natural objects.

For questions or to schedule, please contact Lauren Michael, Outreach Coordinator, at lmichael@dpnc.org.



Schools

We have decades of experience educating students of all grade levels about the diverse ecosystems of southern New England. Whether in class, online, or at one of our locations, we help students of all ages learn about the natural world, while meeting Next Generation Science standards.



Libraries

Our Nature Center educators are ready to deliver high-quality, interactive, nature-inspired programs tailored to a mixed-age library audience. We work with all ages (and adults, too!) and can customize each of our nature programs to best suit your needs of your location, timing, and audience.



Scouts

Scouting and the outdoors go hand in hand! DPNC will help your group complete badge requirements through hikes, live animal encounters, and engaging, hands-on activities. Programs can be completed at your location or as a field trip to either DPNC or Coogan Farm.

VOLUNTEER WITH US THIS SUMMER

There's a volunteer department for everyone:

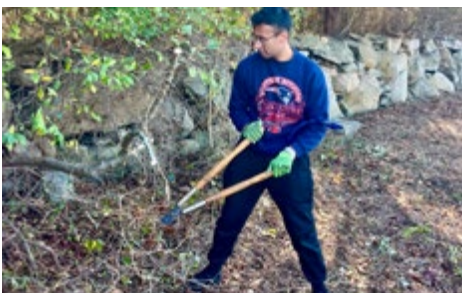


Conservation & Habitat Restoration

Do you love getting outside and making improvements to the land around you? In this area, volunteers work in teams to help restore native plants, eradicate invasive plant species, and maintain trails around the greenway at both the Nature Center and Coogan Farm. Must be 18 or older to volunteer in this department.

Trail Maintenance

Do you enjoy the great outdoors and working with your hands? DPNC is looking for both experienced trail volunteers and those interested in learning more about trail work to help maintain the various hiking trails around and between the two campuses through our Trail Blazers program.



Animal Care

Interested in working with our resident animals? In animal care, you can work with a diverse variety of species. This work requires a commitment of time and a period of shadowing before working on your own. We also offer opportunities for high school students interested in working in Animal Care.

Giving Garden

The Craig Floyd Giving Garden at Coogan Farm educates the public about earth friendly, regenerative gardening practices while growing produce for mobile food pantries. Thousands of pounds of fresh produce is donated to families in need across New London County.



Special Events

Are you an outgoing and enthusiastic person who enjoys working with people of all ages? We are looking for volunteers to assist with special events throughout the year. You can help with planning, prepping, event day duties such as supervising art projects or manning a food or ticket table, photography, video and content creation, and more!

Community Science

Contribute to data collection so we can understand our environment and better care for it! Opportunities include activities like checking bluebird boxes and collecting data about wildlife on the trails.



JOIN ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEER TEAMS



Habitat Restoration Team

Wednesdays from
9 am–12 pm

Help native species thrive at Coogan Farm by removing the invasive species that outcompete them and planting and caring for the native species we replace them with.



Giving Garden Harvests

Tuesdays from 7–10:30 am

Help us harvest the produce growing in the Giving Garden! We spend every Tuesday morning harvesting, cleaning, and packaging produce to be sent to food pantries in the county. All ages and abilities are welcome!



Trail Blazers

Every other Saturday from
10 am–12 pm

Love to walk the trails? Help us keep them in tip-top shape by joining the Trail Blazers! Our trail and landscape maintenance team meets on Saturday mornings to spruce up the trails and other areas on DPNC property.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wild Mushroom Festival

Sunday, Oct. 4

We're seeking volunteers to help us with set up, serving food, running craft tables, and more!

Spooky Nature Trail

Friday, Oct. 23 & Saturday, Oct. 24

This is the perfect opportunity for the actors and theater lovers out there!

We're looking for people to dress up and (gently) scare attendees along the trails.

We're also looking for help with set up and other event tasks.



Volunteers are vital to our mission at DPNC. Take your first step to becoming part of an great group of people while helping DPNC and the environment! Visit dpnc.org/volunteer to sign up today.

JOIN OUR MEMBER COMMUNITY

Being a member of the Nature Center helps rehabilitate injured animals, provide environmental education to the region, grow nutrient-rich and earth-friendly produce for food pantries, care for our trails, and preserve valuable ecosystems in southeast Connecticut.



Member Benefits

- **Free admission** to the museum, facilities, and live animal exhibits year-round
- **Discounted programs and events**
- **Discounted merchandise**
- **Early access** to Summer Nature Camp registration
- **Member rates for birthday parties** at DPNC and Coogan Farm
- **Special member-only events** and programs throughout the year
- **Reciprocal benefits**, including admission and discounts, at 140+ other nature centers across the country.
- **Invitation** to the Annual Meeting
- **Member window/car decal**

Membership Levels

DPNC offers the following membership levels to meet your needs: Individual, Senior Individual, Family, Single-parent Family, Grandparent, Couple, Senior Couple, and Benefactor.

Learn more about our membership levels at dpnc.org/support by scanning the QR code.



HELP US MAKE AN IMPACT

Your gift to the Nature Center supports our environmental education programs, nourishes our resident and rehabilitating animals and helps us steward hundreds of acres of land. We accept one-time and monthly gifts, planned gifts, gifts of securities, donations via our Amazon Wish List, and more.

See how your gifts directly benefit the Nature Center in our annual impact report at dpnc.org/support.

GIVE THE GIFT OF NATURE

Gift Membership

A gift membership is a great way to share the gift of nature with your loved ones. Gift memberships are available at all membership levels and include all benefits listed on the opposite page, including free admission all year and discounts on programs and events.

A close-up photograph of a Great Horned Owl perched on a person's gloved hand. The owl has large, bright yellow eyes and prominent ear tufts. Its feathers are a mix of brown, grey, and white. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with autumn leaves.

Adopt an Animal

Show you care by symbolically adopting one of our resident Animal Ambassadors! While you can't take Mr. Bill or Scarlett home with you, your gift directly makes a difference in his life and the lives of countless other wild animals.

As a federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation and education facility, we regularly take in, rehabilitate, and care for native creatures. Our goal is to release healthy animals back into areas of good habitat, but some are unreleasable due to the nature of their injuries. The animals remaining in our care become Animal Ambassadors and part of our education programs. Your purchase of an Adopt-an-Animal gift helps offset the costs of our rescue and rehabilitation efforts and supports our animals' care.





How to register for a program or event

ONLINE

Visit our events calendar at dpnc.org/events.

OVER THE PHONE

Call us at (860) 536-1216 and we can sign you up via phone.

IN PERSON

Visit us at 109 Pequotsepos Rd in Mystic and we can register you at the front desk.

Cancellation Policy

Pre-registration allows DPNC to secure staffing and materials for programs so that we may best serve you and your family. We require pre-registration and pre-payment for all DPNC programs in order to reserve a space. If DPNC cancels a program, you will receive a full refund. If you withdraw from a program more than four days in advance, you will receive a refund less a 15% administrative fee. Withdrawals within four days of a program are not refundable.

About DPNC

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) is a leading nonprofit organization in southeastern Connecticut dedicated to environmental education, conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation. Each year, DPNC connects thousands of people to nature through hands-on programming, preserves over 350 acres of protected land, and cares for injured and orphaned wildlife.

Visiting DPNC

Museum Hours

Sunday–Friday: 10 AM–4 PM

Saturday: 9 AM–4 PM

Open 7 days a week except New Years Day, Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Admission

Children (3–12): \$7

Adults: \$10

Seniors: \$7

Trails

Trails at DPNC, Coogan Farm, and the Peace Sanctuary are open to the public from dawn to dusk, free of charge. Hiking at Gungywamp requires a DPNC staff member on site; sign up for one of our scheduled hikes or email jmorris@dpnc.org to book a private tour.

DPNC Locations

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center: Main campus with museum, trails, programming & public events, private events, Summer Nature Camp, Early Childhood programming, and Homeschool programming.

Coogan Farm: Trails, Craig Floyd Giving Garden, Neighbors & Nature, Nature Preschool, events, and administrative offices.

Gungywamp: CT State Archaeological Preserve stewarded by DPNC. Closed to the public; access via public or private guided tours.

Peace Sanctuary: 30-acre preserve owned by the Mary Jobe Akeley Trust and stewarded by DPNC; open to public dawn to dusk.

Find us online

 facebook.com/DPNatureCenterMystic

 [@dpnaturectr](https://www.instagram.com/dpnaturectr)

 [@dpnaturectr.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/dpnaturectr)

 [@dpnaturectr](https://www.tiktok.com/@dpnaturectr)

 [@dpnaturectr](https://www.youtube.com/@dpnaturectr)

 linkedin.com/company/denison-pequotsepos-nature-center

SCAN TO
VIEW DPNC'S
ONLINE EVENT
CALENDAR



Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center

109 PEQUOTSEPOS RD, MYSTIC, CT 06355 | (860) 536-1216 | DPNC.ORG