

FALL 2016 & WINTER 2017 PROGRAMS AT BAUER PARK

Madison's Agricultural and Environmental Center

257 Copse Road

Register for all classes in the Madison Beach & Recreation office at town campus or online at www.madisonct.org/recreation . Questions? Call 203-245-5623.

Bauer Park is on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/bauerparkmadison>

Post photos, see event updates, and read about what's happening at Bauer Park!

Educational programs can be arranged for school, scout and community groups at Bauer Park, Salt Meadow Park, Rockland Preserve and the town beaches. Contact the Beach & Recreation Office for more information.

General Programs

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

Saturday, September 3

8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Take an evening field walk with John Himmelman, author of *Night-Singing Insects of the Northeast* and many other natural history books. Come look (and listen) for katydids, coneheads, tree crickets and other night-singing insects. Learn how to identify them by their calls and get some up-close looks at these cryptic creatures. Bring a flashlight.

All ages. FREE and open to the public. Registration is not required. Co-sponsored by the Madison Land Conservation Trust.

BUILD A BAT HOUSE

Saturday, October 22

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Participants will assemble a bat house kit that meets the Bat Conservation International certification standards. We'll also discuss strategies for successfully attracting bats. All tools and supplies will be provided. This is a fun family project for all ages with an adult; children age 10 and older may attend without an adult.

Instructors: Shari Lariviere and Sue Stark

Fee: \$47

LOCAL OWLS

Sunday, January 22

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Owls are amazing birds of prey. Indoors, participants will learn about their haunts and habits. Before swallowing their prey, owls separate out what they can't digest and toss the pellet out

of their roost. By dissecting these sterilized pellets and assembling the bones found in them we will discover what they eat. Then, the group will take recorded owl calls outside to see if we can get our local owls to answer back.

Recommended for adults and children 5 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$10

FAMILY MAPLE SUGARING

Sunday, February 26

2:30-4:00 p.m.

The Bauer farmhouse is framed by two large sugar maples, trees that the Bauer brothers may have used to make maple syrup. Come and learn how maple syrup is made, from tree to table. We'll tap some of Bauer Park's maple trees, taste the sap, and learn how to turn it into syrup (which we'll also taste!). Information on where to acquire sugaring supplies, and when, where and how to tap the maple trees in your own yard will be provided. Boots are recommended as we'll be hiking into the woods to tap the trees.

Recommended for adults and children ages 3 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$5

Please register each person who will be attending, both adults and children.

Surf Club Family Programs

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Saturday, September 24 (Rain date: Sunday, 9/25)

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join the world's largest cleanup event by participating in the 31st annual International Coastal Cleanup at the Surf Club. Each year thousands of volunteers from around the world take part in this international effort to document coastal debris and promote a cleaner environment. This annual event makes our beaches cleaner and removes potential deadly hazards to marine life.

Along with picking up trash, we will record the types and quantities of debris removed. The Ocean Conservancy and Save the Sound will use this data to better understand what types of materials are polluting our beaches.

Biodegradable trash bags, gloves, data cards, pencils and educational information will be provided. After the beach has been cleaned, we'll pull a seine net through the water to collect and learn about some of the marine life that we helped to protect.

For all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is not required.

Beach Captain: Julie Ainsworth

AUTUMN MOONLIGHT WALK

Sunday, October 16

7:00 p.m.

Bring a flashlight and join us for an evening stroll on the Garvan Trail at the Surf Club. As always, a bagpiper will lead the way. After the walk, refreshments will be served in the Surf Club building, and members of the Astronomical Society of New Haven will set up telescopes for viewing the moon, planets and stars in the night-time sky. Sponsored by Madison Beach & Recreation and the Madison Land Conservation Trust. Registration is not required.

Programs for Adults & High School Students

SECRETS OF TREES IN WINTER: THE BEAUTY OF TWIGS AND BUDS

Sunday, February 19

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn the tricks to identifying trees in winter by their bark and growth form in the forest. Then, come inside to explore the beauty of their twigs and buds. These intricate structures tell the story of a tree's past and foretell its burst into lush green life in the spring. This class will change how you see trees and connect you with their marvels. An indoor-outdoor program. Dress for the weather and a short easy walk.

For adults and high school students.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$10

Children's Programs

MINI-EXPLORERS

Come join in the fun of exploring! We will learn about nature and science through activities such as hiking, singing, games, stories and making crafts. For preschoolers ages 3-5, accompanied by an adult. Indoor/outdoor programs – dress for the weather.

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$12 per class

Are Crabs Really Crabby?

Friday, September 9

10:00-11:30 a.m.

How many legs do crabs have, what direction do crabs walk, which crab isn't a crab, and are crabs really crabby? Discover the answers to all your crab questions as we learn many fascinating facts about these ocean creatures. Participants will also have the chance to meet a crab up close.

September Stroll

Friday, September 23

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a stroll on the Bauer Park trails and search for some of the critters that live in the meadow and forest. Along the way, do some fun activities and games that will help us learn more about the Park habitats, plants and animals. Make a nature print and decorate its frame using some of the objects you find on the trail.

Wild Colors

Friday, October 14

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Autumn is a season known for its beautiful colors. Discover why color is important to plants and animals and then go outside on a "rainbow" scavenger hunt. Participants will also make a "colorful" craft.

Fall Flyers

Friday, October 28

10:00-11:30 a.m.

People often associate bats with the fall season even though they've been busy all summer long. Join us to discover some intriguing facts about bats and dispel a few myths along the way. Play a game to learn how sound helps bats fly and make a "batty" craft.

Digging Dinosaurs

Friday, November 11

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Become a paleontologist and dig for "fossils" along with making your own to take home. Learn some dinosaur facts like how big they might have been, how they moved, and how to tell the plant-eaters from the meat-eaters.

Fascinating Fishes

Friday, December 9

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Fish have all sorts of adaptations to help them survive in their aquatic environments. Learn about some cool ways that fish eat, protect themselves and maneuver through their habitats. Make a festive holiday fish to take home. Entire class will take place inside.

Cool Nights

Friday, January 13

10:00-11:30 a.m.

The crisp, clear nights of winter are a great time for viewing the night sky. Hear how some “creatures” ended up among the stars and create your own constellation. Eat your way through the phases of the moon and make craters in the “moon sand.” Entire class will take place inside.

Birds of Winter

Friday, January 27

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Discover how birds from chickadees to penguins are adapted to survive in the snow and cold. After going on a winter bird search, make a special treat to take home for the birds in your yard. Bring your binoculars!

Animal Tracks and Traces

Friday, February 10

10:00-11:30 a.m.

While it may seem too cold for any living creature to survive outside in February, many animals are scurrying all around our northern forests and fields. Go on a mystery hunt for tracks and other signs of winter animals venturing out in the snow. Create a fun craft to help you remember the tracks you saw.

It's Sugaring Time!

Friday, February 24

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Maple trees are waking up as hints of spring arrive at Bauer Park. Learn how to tap the trees and then how to collect the sap to turn it into syrup. Make a craft to remind you of how special maple trees are.

PRESCHOOL SPROUTS

Tuesdays, September 13 – November 1 (no class 10/11)

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sprouts will use the Bauer Farming Project's organic vegetable garden as an outdoor classroom to observe as well as engage with nature. Participants will plant, harvest, taste and share the fruits of their labor. A portion of each class will be dedicated to harvesting food from the garden for donation to the Madison Food Pantry. Each class will consist of story time, nature journaling, hiking, crafts, songs, gardening, and lots of fun. This is a drop off program. Please have children prepared to hike outside, bring a water bottle and a snack. Be advised: We will be tasting items from the garden and preparing foods (please make teachers aware of allergies or dietary restrictions).

Ages 3-6. Children must be toilet-trained.

Instructors: Shari Lariviere and Sue Stark

Fee: \$155

ROOTS TO FRUITS

Thursdays, September 15 – October 27

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Using the Bauer Farming Project's organic vegetable garden as an outdoor classroom, participants will observe and engage with the natural world through a variety of activities including planting, harvesting, tasting and sharing the fruits of our labor. This is a drop off program. Be prepared to hike outside, bring a water bottle and a snack. Be advised: We will be tasting items from the garden and preparing foods (please make teachers aware of allergies or dietary restrictions).

Week 1: Intro to organic gardening

Week 2: Soils in the organic garden

Week 3: Plants in the organic garden

Week 4: Pollinators in the organic garden

Week 5: Biodiversity in the organic garden

Week 6: Water in the organic garden

Week 7: Food and the community

Ages 5 and up

Instructors: Sue Stark and Shari Lariviere

Fee: \$120

MAKE A MAGICAL MINIATURE GARDEN

Saturday, October 1

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Create a magical miniature windowsill garden. All tools and supplies will be provided, just bring your imagination. This is a drop off program.

Ages 6-12

Instructors: Sue Stark and Shari Lariviere

Fee: \$44

LEGO LAUNCHERS AND POPSICLE BRIDGES

Tuesday, October 11

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Join Cool-ology for fast paced, educational STEM challenges! Children will utilize the engineering design process to design and create fun, creative, and useful contraptions sure to thrill and delight!

Ages 7-10

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$15

UNSINKABLE SHIPS AND BABY LIFE JACKETS

Tuesday, November 8

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Join Cool-ology for fast paced, educational STEM challenges! Children will utilize the engineering design process to design and create fun, creative, and useful contraptions sure to thrill and delight!

Ages 7-10

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$15

BUCKET TOWERS AND WATER SLIDES

Thursday, February 2

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Join Cool-ology for fast paced, educational STEM challenges! Children will utilize the engineering design process to design and create fun, creative, and useful contraptions sure to thrill and delight!

Ages 7-10

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$15

OCEANOLOGY CLUB

Wednesdays, September 14 – November 9 (no meeting 9/28)

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Investigate our local marine environment in this science club for middle school students. We'll explore a variety of coastal ecosystems -- from sandy beaches and salt marshes, to tidepools and rocky shores. Students will collect and analyze data, learn to identify local species, and assess human impacts on Long Island Sound. We'll also monitor invasive crab populations as citizen scientists. On rainy days, we'll do indoor activities, such as fish printing, microscopic studies or dissections. The club schedule with meeting locations will be emailed to parents. Students should have a serious interest in math, science and the marine environment.

Ages 10-14 (students currently in grades 5-8)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$122

BROWN POND PROJECT

Fall Session: Tuesdays, September 13 – December 20 (no meeting 10/11 and 11/8)

Spring Session: Tuesdays, February 7 – May 30 (no meeting 2/14, 2/21, 4/11, and 5/16)

3:00-5:00 p.m.

The POND (Providing Outdoor Nature Discoveries) Project is a weekly, after-school club for fifth- and sixth-grade aspiring naturalists at Brown School. Each year, POND kids continue the

process of exploring and enhancing the schoolyard habitat, learning about nature in general, and sharing their discoveries about this great natural resource with the school community. Activities might include journaling, pond sampling, plant identification, trail building, birdwatching, display-making or tracking, just to name a few; every day is different. Willingness and ability to sit and listen is a must. POND is an indoor/outdoor program that runs for the entire academic year by semester; register for each semester separately. Brown school students are eligible to participate. For more information, go to www.sites.google.com/site/brownpondproject. This program fills up quickly; waitlisted students will be contacted if and only if a spot becomes available.

Instructor: Pam Meier

Fee: \$169/session

POND PROJECT II

Fall Session: Fridays, September 9 – December 16 (no meeting 11/25)

Spring Session: Fridays, February 3 – May 26 (no meeting 3/10, 4/7 and 4/14)

2:50-4:30 p.m.

The POND Project II is an extension of the Brown School POND Project, and is open to all Polson Middle School students. Students walk together, after school, from Polson to Bauer Park, which serves as laboratory, classroom and base of exploration. Activities run the gamut from wetlands study to hiking the nearby Cockaponset trails to planting wildlife gardens—or whatever presents as relevant, engaging and suitable to the group and outdoor conditions at the time. Each year also incorporates a community service project of the group's choosing. The program is very student-directed and very interdisciplinary, and therefore requires participants to be genuinely motivated, open-minded and adventurous about nature study. PPII is an indoor/outdoor program that runs for the entire academic year by semester; register for each semester separately.

Instructor: Pam Meier

Fee: \$182/session