

FALL 2017 & WINTER 2018 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/bauerparkmadisonct>

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 2

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.

AUTUMN MOONLIGHT WALK

Sunday, October 8

7:00 p.m.

Bring a flashlight and join 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. FREE and open to the public.

Registration is not required. Sponsored by Madison Beach & Recreation and the Madison Land Conservation Trust.

CALLING IN THE OWLS IN YOUR BACKYARD

Sunday, January 21

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Owls are amazing, secretive birds of prey. They are seldom seen, but often heard late at night: "WHO'S AWAKE? ME TOO!" Learn the calls of these stealthy hunters and then try to call them in as it gets dark. Indoors, dissect sterilized owl pellets to reconstruct the tiny skeletons of their prey. This is a science program recommended for adults and children 5 years and older.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$5

EXPLORING TWIGS AND BUDS THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE

Sunday, February 11

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Trees may look similar in winter, but their twigs and buds give them away. On a brief walk outside, learn how to distinguish species by their bark and form. Then, come inside to explore the secrets of each species' unique 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. An indoor-outdoor science program. Dress for the weather and a short easy walk.

For adults and high school students.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$13

FAMILY MAPLE SUGARING

Saturday, February 24

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The Bauer farmhouse was 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 one 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 a tree.

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

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$5

BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD AND AROUND THE WORLD

Sunday, March 25

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Experience an avian world, from the backyards of Madison to the exotic wild lands of Australia, Africa and the Galapagos Islands. Each species has its own fascinating stories to tell through its unique behaviors and adaptations. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions about birds throughout the program. Susannah Graedel holds a master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and spent many years banding songbirds.

For adults and high school students.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$10

GET READY FOR BLUEBIRDS!

Sunday, April 8

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Bluebirds start nesting in Madison in early spring. Indoors we will learn about what these lovely songbirds need to raise a family. Nest box plans are available. Then tour the Bauer Bluebird Trail to see the birds in action. Learn how to become a bluebird nest box monitor as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science program.

All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$5

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: \$10 per class

Are Crabs Really Crabby?

Saturday, 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.

Fall Flyers

Saturday, October 21

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

Saturday, November 4

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.

The Wonder of Water

Saturday, November 18

10:00-11:30 a.m.

It may be too cold to go swimming outside, but discovering the wonders of water is never out of season. As we do some fun experiments and make a craft, we will learn a few interesting facts about water. Entire class will take place inside.

Fascinating Fishes

Saturday, 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

Saturday, 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

Saturday, 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

Saturday, 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.

ROOTS TO FRUITS AFTER-SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

Mondays, September 18 – October 30 (no class 10/9)

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Using the Bauer Farming Project's organic vegetable garden as an outdoor classroom, gardeners will observe and engage with the natural world through a variety of activities including observing, planting, cultivating, harvesting, tasting and sharing the fruits of our labor. In addition to making tasty snacks, we will harvest food to be donated to the Madison Food Pantry. Please bring a water bottle and snack. Apply sunscreen and insect repellent before coming to class. Be advised: We will be tasting items from the garden and preparing foods (please make teacher aware of allergies or dietary restrictions).

Ages 8 - 12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$110

MADISON EXPLORERS

Fridays, September 22 – November 3 (no meeting 10/13)

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Did you know that Madison has over 25 hiking trails, as well as four beaches and two coastal preserves? Each week, we'll meet at a different site in town for hiking and exploration. We'll go letterboxing, geocaching, pond dipping, orienteering, beach seining and more! Bring a water bottle, snack and your sense of adventure. The season's schedule and directions to meeting sites will be emailed to parents.

Ages 7-10 (students currently in grades 2-4)

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$80

OCEANOLOGY CLUB

Wednesdays, September 13 – November 15

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 at the Surf Club. 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: \$167

SCIENCE GIRLS! classes at Bauer Park

The following classes are designed to inspire girls to explore science topics. All activities are geared towards encouraging confidence, curiosity and interest in STEM explorations.

AUTUMN EQUINOX POLLINATOR PARTY

Thursday, September 21

2:00-4:00 p.m.

We will investigate the variety of pollinators at Bauer Park, learn about pollinator habitats and life cycles, and have a celebration party with foods that pollinators help provide.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$27

GARDEN SCIENCE

Saturday, October 7

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

We will undertake scientific investigations of the soils, plants and animals found at the Farming Project vegetable garden at Bauer Park.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Sue Stark

Fee: \$22

FLOWERS THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE

Thursday, October 12

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Spectacular beauty lies hidden beneath the petals of the wildflowers at Bauer Park. Dissect several species and examine them under the microscope to reveal their intricate secrets. Learn why a daisy is not a flower. Discover how flower structure relates to pollinators. Capture the flowers' secrets by making a scientific botanical drawing. The instructor holds a Certificate in Botanical Illustration from the New York Botanical Garden.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$17

SENSATIONAL SEaweEDS!

Thursday, October 19

4:00-6:00 p.m.

What provides food and oxygen for marine life and people? What can be used to make toothpaste, ice cream, and may even be the biofuel of the future? Seaweeds of course! We'll collect samples from the beach, then examine them under microscopes, learning how to identify and press this colorful macroalgae. We'll also taste some seaweed delicacies from around the world!

Class meets at the Surf Club.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$16

COOL-OLoGY HALLOWEEN ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Thursday, October 26

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Use the engineering design process to create your own spooky Halloween potions; design and create a mini pumpkin chunkin' catapult; bob for apples without getting your face wet by creating a device that can grab apples out of a tub of water in the shortest amount of time!

Ages 7-10

Instructor: Claudia Esposito

Fee: \$20

PLANKTON LAB

Thursday, November 9

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Use a plankton net to collect a sample from Long Island Sound, then discover the variety of life in a drop of seawater when you examine it under a microscope. Learn how to distinguish between phyto- and zoo-plankton, as well as the difference between holo- and mero-plankton. Create your own plankton model adapted to survive in the sea, then compete in the Great Plankton Race!

Class meets at the Surf Club.

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Julie Ainsworth

Fee: \$17

WINTER TREE I.D.

Thursday, December 7

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Take a walk on the trails of Bauer Park and learn how to identify trees without their leaves. Then, warm up inside as we use magnifiers to distinguish species by their unique 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!

Ages 7-12

Instructor: Susannah Graedel

Fee: \$17

ELECTRIFYING ENERGY

Thursday, January 11

4:00-5:30 p.m.

In this sizzling program, explore the power of electricity! Students will become a Human Circuit, use food to complete a circuit, and use Snap Circuits to make a light glow or rotate a fan. Make your own aluminum foil circuit to take home!

Ages 7-10

Instructor: Donna Dione

Fee: \$15

BROWN POND PROJECT

Fall Session: Tuesdays, September 19 – December 12

Spring Session: Tuesdays, February 6 – May 22 (no meeting 2/20, 4/17, and 5/15)

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. Only Brown school students are eligible to participate.

Instructor: Pam Meier

Fee: \$180/session

POND PROJECT II

Fall Session: Fridays, September 8 – December 8 (no meeting 11/24)

Spring Session: Fridays, February 2 – May 18 (no meeting 3/30)

3:00-4:30 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: \$135/session