



Seasonal Splendor



Taft Students arrive at Flanders for community service October 28, 2024.

New this Year!

Be the first to enter the historic Van Vleck House and enjoy shopping for unique gifts in this year's Artisan's Marketplace. Over 60 local artisans will have one of kind items for sale at what has become one of the most anticipated Flanders events of the year. A limited number of tickets will be pre-sold for Friday, November 7th then from 5-7pm be the first to see and shop at this year's Artisan Marketplace.

Fall is such a beautiful time and with the changing seasons. Flanders offers many fun family programs like our Fall Family Fun Day with apple pressing, a live bird of prey show, and pumpkin carving on October 4th from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Or join us for one of the Haunted Hikes this year—spooky fun for all ages. In November and December, our popular wreath making programs have expanded times and hours so join us if you can. Of all the seasons, this season is one of awe and excitement.

We look forward to welcoming you to Flanders!

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Alex Thomson
LAND STEWARD

FLANDERS MISSION

To provide opportunities to appreciate nature's wonders and preserve land, inspiring lifelong learning about our natural world.

FLANDERS VISION

To be a leading resource and destination of choice for environmental and outdoor education, research, land preservation and stewardship, farm experiences and arts activities, reflecting the needs of our changing and inclusive communities and evolving partnerships.



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REMINDERS &
REGISTRATION



Norway Maple Leaf in Fall

Mark Your Calendars!

October 3-12

ART EXHIBIT

October 4

FALL FAMILY DAY

October 17, 18, 24 & 25

WIZARDS OF THE WOODS—
FLANDERS HAUNTED HIKES

November 8–December 23

ARTISAN MARKETPLACE OPENS

November 15–December 14

WREATH MAKING/DECORATING
WORKSHOPS

Look for the  next to select programs, indicating topics we consider important to strengthening environmental courage and providing a greater understanding of our changing world.

FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Artisan Marketplace, 2024

BACK COVER PHOTO:
Hailey with Taft Girls Soccer Team, 2024

CATALOG EDITOR: Ana Jordan

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CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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Hailey Horan, Ana Jordan, Dianne Parmelee,
Eileen Reed

Forever Connected



Nonnewaug High School FFA Members and Dr. Paula Philbrick during Apple Cider Demonstration

Volunteer Your Time

A gift of your time and talent is a very important contribution. Flanders offers regular opportunities for members and friends to share their skills and interests with the organization and community. Seasonal events at Flanders, such as Maple Sugaring, Flanders Festival, Field & Forest 5K, Flanders Annual Benefit & Auction, and our Holiday Wreath Making Workshops depend upon the work of hundreds of dedicated volunteers to make them successful. From a Land Trust perspective, Flanders relies on its volunteers to carry on its mission of preserving and caring for more than 2,400 acres of protected property in the region. Whether you would like to volunteer regularly or just help when you have the time, Flanders needs you!

Consider Joining a Committee

Ready to get more involved with Flanders and share your expertise? Join one or more of our volunteer led committees to help us meet our goals and objectives and further our mission and vision. By being a committee member you will help grow Flanders and make a deep impact! Here is a list of our committees with a brief description:

- » **LEARN Committee**—Promoting and teaching the understanding and appreciation of art, farming, and nature to adults and families.
- » **Art Committee**—Organizing art related programs and conserving founder Natalie Van Vleck's history and archives.
- » **Land Management Committee**—Managing Flanders' 2,400+ acres of open space.
- » **Land Acquisition Committee**—Acquiring important open space lands.
- » **Development/Fundraising Committee**—Helping raise funds to support Flanders' Mission.
- » **Historic Van Vleck Committee**—Ensuring Flanders facilities are properly maintained and/or restored.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OUR VOLUNTEER AND COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES please contact Program Coordinator, Ana Jordan, by email at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org or by phone at 203.263.3711 x14.



Volunteer Anne Westerman leads the 2024 Black Friday Gratitude Hike

Want to lead a hike, program or class?

Do you have a talent that you would like to share? Flanders is always looking for new instructors.

VOLUNTEER TODAY Call 203.263.3711 x14 or email Program Coordinator, Ana Jordan, at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org.

Giving Intentionally to Flanders

There are many ways to donate to a cause you care about.

AN OUTRIGHT DONATION

- » A one-time gift via check, cash or credit card
- » Recurring donations in small monthly amounts can be set up via our website's donation page
- » Gift from a donor-advised fund, a family trust or private foundation
- » Donation of securities (appreciated stock donated to a 501(c)3 is tax-deductible and saves on capital gains)
- » RMD-Mandatory disbursement of your IRA (will also help manage your taxable income)

LEGACY GIFTS

If you believe in Flanders' mission, and wish to leave a legacy to Flanders, know that your gift, no matter its size, is an ultimate expression of support and friendship. Your assets are carefully invested and safeguarded for generations.

- » Bequeath funds as part of your will or living trust
- » Add Flanders as a beneficiary to gift retirement assets or life insurance proceeds
- » Add a bequest of land or tangible property to Flanders

DID YOU KNOW THAT FLANDERS ALSO ACCEPTS:

- » Direct donation of a used car or boat in any condition to <https://careeasy.org/flanders-nature-center-land-trust>, or 855-500-7433 This organization will take care of pick up and sale of your vehicle and proceeds are donated directly to Flanders with a tax-deductible receipt to you.
- » Donation of selected items for our Ebay for Charity storefront
- » Donation of auction items to benefit Farm to Flanders, such as trips, meals, stays, tickets and art
- » Donation of services rendered to Flanders

Your gifts may be unrestricted to go to our area of greatest need, or you may designate it to your favorite cause such as campership, land management, or towards a particular fund at Flanders.

Please reach out to Director of Development Jeannette Purdy to discuss any of these options in confidence: jeannette@flandersnaturecenter.org, or call 203.263.3711 x 15. It takes many to make Flanders a great place, but it only takes one person to make a difference.



End-of-Year Tax Tips

As 2025 enters its last quarter, we reflect on the incredible support we've received throughout the year. Your generosity has made a meaningful impact in our community, but there's still work to be done. This is a critical time, as your donations will directly support the programs you care about, preserve the land we love, and continue the work we do toward our mission.

One of the most powerful ways you can give back is by taking advantage of year-end tax benefits. Contributions made before December 31st are eligible for deductions on your 2025 tax return—meaning you can support our cause while also reducing your taxable income. Whether you're giving cash, stocks, or other appreciated assets, your donation can provide significant tax advantages and ensure your support has an immediate impact. And if you have a corporate matching program, your gift could be doubled—amplifying the good!

These decisions are personal and we encourage you to consult a tax advisor to understand the full benefits of your donation. Regardless of the amount, every gift counts. Thank you for your donations and gifts of time and talent, which altogether have made 2025 a year of progress, hope, and positive transformation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Director of Development, Jeannette Purdy at 203.263.3711 x15.

Membership Benefits & Opportunities

We rely on dedicated members to fulfill our mission.

As a member of Flanders, you will take pride in knowing that you are supporting important land preservation and stewardship efforts, as well as exceptional environmental education programming for young and old alike!

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual: \$35

- » Discount on classes, programs and specific events
- » Invitation to Annual Meeting and election privileges

Family: \$65

(2 adults and children under age 21)

All individual benefits, plus:

- » Discounts on summer camp
- » Opportunity to host a children's birthday party at Flanders

Sustaining Memberships:

- » Cedar: \$100
- » White Birch: \$250
- » Hickory: \$500

Orchid Society:

- » Chestnut: \$1,000
- » Sugar Maple: \$3,000

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

flandersnaturecenter.org/membership/

Forever Connected



Dianne Parmelee leaves an indelible mark! by Arthur Milnor

Dianne Parmelee represents much of what Flanders is all about today, and certainly much of what Flanders was about at its founding in 1963. Reflecting further, it seems Dianne was somehow inextricably linked to Flanders founder, Natalie Van Vleck (NVV) ... perhaps even channeling her a little over the years.

Both NVV and Dianne were passionate, fiercely independent, and hard-working women. Both possessed abundant artistic gifts and were admired for their varied creative talents. Both were in tune to the unique opportunities of melding the varied worlds of farming, nature and art into a flourishing Flanders Nature Center. Both inspired scores of children and families.

Like NVV, Dianne was inspired by the natural world. While NVV's artistic path steered toward painting, woodwork, and

carved frames, Dianne preferred the arts and crafts and life's lessons she imagined or gleaned from the study of nature. She concocted imaginative children's stories, and often wrote, directed and performed in magical Flanders productions like the Fairy Festivals and Haunted Hikes. Her gorgeous holiday wreaths, assembled from scratch with collected natural gatherings, were legendary. And during interpretive classes, she merrily and with purpose went about her ways of passing along time-honored rural traditions from generation to generation.

Dianne's first love, however, might have been the farm, raising animals, and putting her fingers deep into the heart of the land. Perhaps like Natalie, farming stirred something deep in her soul. Under Dianne's tutelage everyone seemed eager and interested to learn. She was a gifted

teacher holding reign over school children, 4-H volunteers, and families who came out to visit the animals, to understand life on a working farm, or learn about the wonders of nature.

Like Natalie, she understood the intrinsic value Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust would have in the minds and hearts of visitors from throughout the region. And like Natalie she will be missed, but she could never be forgotten. There was a creative energy about Dianne that beckoned, and her persona could be loosely defined as a wonderful combination of Mary Poppins and the Piped Piper.

Dianne left an indelible mark ... for who she was, all she accomplished, and most importantly, for passing the torch of enchantment and enlightenment from one generation to the next.

Forever Connected

Alexander Thomson Retires After 15 Years of Service as Land Manager



Alex Thomson's first introduction to Flanders came in the mid-sixties, when his parents enrolled him in a summer program. Though memories are faint, he recalls standing near the old barn across from the Van Vleck house.

By 2000, he had joined the education committee at Flanders, hosting meetings at Nonnewaug High School where he taught Ag Mechanics and later directed the Ag Program. From those meetings came his role leading wagon rides at Flanders festivals—something he continued at many events for years.

Newly retired after a 30-year teaching career and decades of farm work, he shifted into a small haying operation and was invited by then-Director Arthur Milnor to take on maintenance at Flanders. His early tasks ranged from mowing and winterizing buildings to snow removal and even beaver management. As responsibilities grew, he brought in Ag students to help and supplied equipment from his farm. Together, they built annual safety and maintenance programs that remain in place today.

The Thomson family's ties to Flanders run deep. His paternal grandmother was close friends with Natalie Van Vleck, and his maternal grandmother's Junior League helped fund the Trail House project in the 1960s.



Retiring with 15 years of invaluable service as Flanders' Land Manager, Alex receives accolades from Flanders' staff, volunteers, and community partners. Alex's wife of 41 years, Janet, has been his greatest supporter and now volunteers at Flanders as well. As he transitions responsibilities to a new team member, he expects to stay involved a while longer... When asked about his "last day," he replied with a smile: "Probably a year or two from now. Retirement is just changing jobs." We're all glad, as this means we'll see Alex around and enjoy his words of wisdom and common sense.

Adult & Family Programs



WOODWARD OUTDOOR SCIENCE & LEARNING INITIATIVE

Fall–Holiday Programs

Ekphrastic Poetry Writing

An ekphrastic poem is a vivid description of a scene or, more commonly, a work of art. Woodbury Poet Laureate, Sandy Carlson, will provide an introduction to ekphrastic writing, followed by a tour of the Art and Photography Exhibit in the Van Vleck House. All in attendance will have the opportunity to try their hand at writing a poem (or two) about the art alongside members of Woodbury's Ekphrastic Poetry Group.

DATE: Saturday, October 4

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Studio & Van Vleck House

COST: Complimentary

Fall Trail Work Days

Join our new Fall monthly trail work party! Help us remove invasive plants from the Botany Trail. No experience necessary, just a willingness to get your hands dirty and have fun. Bring pruners and loppers, if you have them and make sure to dress appropriately. Long pants, shirts and sturdy closed toe shoes are recommended.

DATES: Sundays, October 12 & November 9

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: Sugar House

COST: Complimentary

Needle Felting Nights

Curious about needle felting? Come and explore the magic! Needle felting is an easy-to-learn craft in which you are able to sculpt wool fiber into anything imaginable simply by poking it with a single barbed needle. Participants will learn to achieve the desired form, firmness, and surface quality in the process. The featured kit includes all materials needed. Choose to bring your own materials for guidance and support on your own project. Other kits will be available for purchase by cash or check.

DATES:

- Thursday, October 16: Pumpkins (\$25 Kit)
- Thursday, November 13: Snowmen or Holiday Tree (\$25 Kit)
- Thursday, December 4: Simple Gnome—choice of red, green or blue (\$30 Kit)

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Studio

COST: \$21/class plus cost of kit and tax





Fall Trail Hike Series

Fall Senior Hikes with Arthur & Kathy!

Join retired Flanders Executive Director, Arthur Milnor, and volunteer Kathy Haven for easy to moderate casual walks taken on forest trails. These hikes are a great opportunity to get outside, observe what's happening in the natural world, learn something new, and maybe even meet new friends! Not just for seniors—all are welcome!

DATES: Hike 1: Tuesday, October 7

Hike 2: Thursday, November 13

Hike 3: Tuesday, December 9

PLACES: Hike 1: Hidden Valley Overlook and Quartz Mine, Sabbaday Ln. Trailhead, Steep Rock Assoc. Washington

Hike 2: Herron Pond Loop, White Memorial, Morris

Hike 3: Memorial Bridge and Thoreau Bridge via Bee Brook at Hidden Valley Preserve, Steep Rock Assoc. Washington

TIME: 10:00 AM

COST: Complimentary members and \$6/non-members

Hike the Hetzel

Everyone is invited to come out and explore the Hetzel Refuge in Middlebury. The Hetzel is a pristine wooded refuge of 66 acres and offers prime observation areas for both birds and animals. The guided hike by Beth Lyons and John Cavallaro traverses woodlands, hayfields, conifer plantations, swamps, and several man-made ponds, all of which provide a haven for wildlife. The hike is a moderate, 60 minutes, 1.5-mile loop.

DATE: Saturday, October 18

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Hetzel Refuge—Breakneck Hill Rd., Middlebury

COST: Complimentary/members and \$6/non-members

Black Friday Gratitude Hike

Get outside on Black Friday and join us for a Gratitude Hike. Former board president, Anne Westerman, will lead this hike as we give thanks and enjoy some time out in nature. This hike will traverse our main campus. The natural habitats of the sanctuary, including fields, meadows, forests, wetlands, marshes, streams, and ponds, support a great diversity of wildlife species. Open to ALL!

DATE: Friday, November 28

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Van Vleck Sanctuary—Sugar House Parking Area
Church Hill Rd., Woodbury

COST: Complimentary/members and \$6/non-members



<<FOR ALL HIKES DRESS FOR THE WEATHER AND WEAR TERRAIN APPROPRIATE FOOTGEAR.<<

Adult & Family Programs

Our CT Wildlife

Join DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple for engaging and informative talks this fall and discover Connecticut's Wild Side! The presentations are packed with up-to-date research, practical tips, and compelling visuals and are perfect for all ages. Wildlife is closer than you think—come learn how to keep it wild and wonderful.



The Return of the Black Bear

Black bears are back in Connecticut—and they're closer than you think. Once a rare sight, these powerful and intelligent animals are now making regular appearances in neighborhoods, parks, and backyards across the state. Curious, adaptable, and increasingly common, black bears are capturing the public's attention and raising important questions about safety, conservation, and coexistence

DATE: Thursday, November 6

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: The Studio

COST: \$6/members and \$12/non-members

Beavers: Nature's Master Engineers

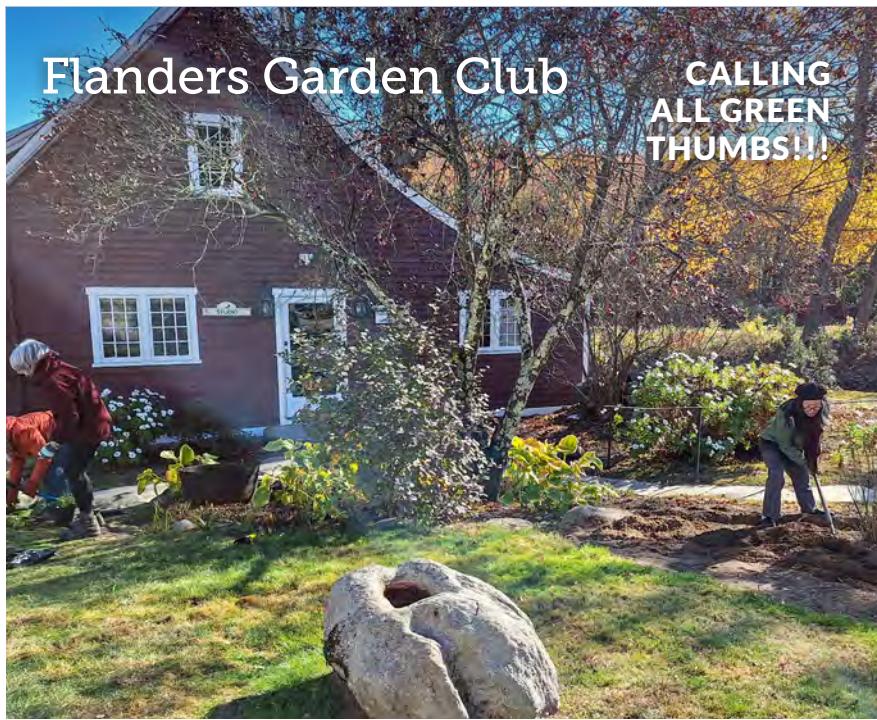
Dive into the world of beavers—Connecticut's incredible, industrious mammals. Learn how these fascinating creatures shape our landscapes, create wetlands, and support biodiversity through their dam-building talents. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a backyard observer, or simply curious about local wildlife, this program will offer surprising insights into the lives of beavers: how they build, where they live, what they eat, and why they're vital to healthy ecosystems.

DATE: Thursday, December 4

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: Trail House Lab

COST: \$6/members and \$12/non-members



Flanders Garden Club

CALLING
ALL GREEN
THUMBS!!!

Join the Flanders Garden Club dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the gardens surrounding our historic 1786 Van Vleck House and Natalie Van Vleck Studio both located at 5 Church Hill Rd in Woodbury. The garden club will meet regularly to discuss garden projects, conduct adult and children's garden programs, visit notable gardens, and tend to the Flanders Van Vleck House & Studio Gardens.

Professional gardener, Fabienne Audette, is heading up the club. Fabienne earned her Master's degree in Horticulture from The Ohio State University. She has worked at both the Cleveland and New York Botanical Gardens. We are very lucky to have her!

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to join, please email program coordinator Ana Jordan at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org or call the office at 203.263.3711.

C Flanders Environmental Book Club

Join reading enthusiasts and book club leaders, Adele Falco and Ingrid Manning, in discussing reading that will focus on mostly non-fiction books about nature and the environment. The club would like to investigate and remain open to all aspects of these subjects from science-based teachings to cultural and political influences. It is our hope to have the opportunity to delve deeply into aspects of these topics that affect our community directly, particularly the environmental and natural history of our region, its agrarian history and current trends.

The group collectively decides on future titles. We welcome anyone interested in sharing and learning more about these topics to join us for a friendly, educational and hopefully, enlightening discussion on a monthly basis.

DATES: Every 4th Tuesday

TIME: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

PLACE: Van Vleck House

COST: Complimentary

EVERY
4TH
TUESDAY
@
7:00 PM



Flanders Photography Club

Want to join the Photography Club?

Our focus is outdoor nature photography "to foster understanding and appreciation of nature, art and the wonders of the natural world ..." The Club's purpose is to promote the development of photographic skills and the art of photography. Meetings will include instruction on the basics of outdoor photography, camera operation, features, techniques and tips as well as presentations, forums, and guest speakers. Plus there will be outdoor exercises and projects, such as macro, wildlife and bird photography.

DATE: Every third Wednesday of the month

TIME: 5:30 PM

PLACE: The Studio

COST: \$20/member and \$40/non-member per year

EVERY
3RD
WEDNESDAY
@
5:30 PM

Adult & Family Programs

Earth Medicine School

Join Dr. Lindsay Chimileski for a monthly class that provides a deep dive into holistic healing through the seasons. From fall through early spring, we'll explore how to identify wild herbs and fungi, craft your own remedies, and align your life with nature's rhythms.

DATE: Thursdays, 2025: November 6, December 4, 2026: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2

TIME: 3:00 to 6:00 PM

PLACE: Trail House Lab

COST: \$450/member and \$495/non-member

This is an immersive, hands-on course designed to help you **feel confident caring for yourself and your family** with practical, earth-based tools.

- » Learn how to make teas, tinctures, fire cider, broths, and salves
- » Explore local mushrooms and medicinal plants through guided walks
- » Build your herbal pantry and nervous system rituals for each season
- » Outdoor + classroom learning—dress for the weather!

Whether you are brand new to holistic medicine or looking to deepen your connection, this course will leave you feeling empowered, rooted, and ready to tend your body—and your loved ones—naturally.

COURSE INCLUDES:

- » Monthly hands-on remedy demos (tinctures, teas, broths, fire cider, salve)
- » Herbal & mushroom medicine tastings
- » Access to handouts + *materia medica* pages
- » Private group thread for connection between classes
- » Certificate of Completion



CLASS TOPICS:

- » November—
Rewilding the Senses & Fall Foraging Foundations
- » December—
Earth ID Skills, Plant Families & Immune Support
- » January—
Winter Wellness Formulations & Allies
- » February—
Winter Restoration Nervous System Nourishment & Herbal Adaptogens
- » March—
Food is medicine. Kitchen & Folk Remedies that stand the test of time
- » April—
Ready for Spring & Field Medicine Integration

* In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held online via Zoom.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO REGISTER

Visit flandersnaturecenter.org/earthmedicineschool

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED SOME MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Adele at adele@flandersnaturecenter.org

● Permaculture Design Certificate Course

This program is designed to immerse participants in information, ideas, and inspiration on how to design sustainable, regenerative systems for your home and property. This course will be taught by environmental experts from the Northwest Conservation District.

DATE: Saturdays, 2025: November 8, December 13; 2026: January 17, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13

TIME: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PLACE: The Studio (Field trips to local sites may be scheduled)

COST: \$1,450/member and \$1,500/non-member

This program will encompass key topics in permaculture design and is for anyone interested in the practical application of permaculture principles in their home or small-scale agricultural business. Each participant will complete a permaculture design project under the direction of the instructor. Regular attendance is expected. In addition, students will be introduced to the regional adaptation of permaculture in the Northeast and how to join and take part in the growing permaculture community around the region.

KEY TOPICS:

- » Core Permaculture Principles
- » Climate and Site Analysis
- » Water Harvesting and Management
- » Soil and Plant Cultivation
- » Food Production Systems
- » Animal Integration
- » Design and Implementation
- » Energy and Resource Management
- » Social and Economic Aspects
- » Case Studies and Practical Applications

* In the event of inclement weather, the program will be held online via Zoom.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO REGISTER

Visit flandersnaturecenter.org/permaculturedesigncourse

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED SOME MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact Adele at adele@flandersnaturecenter.org



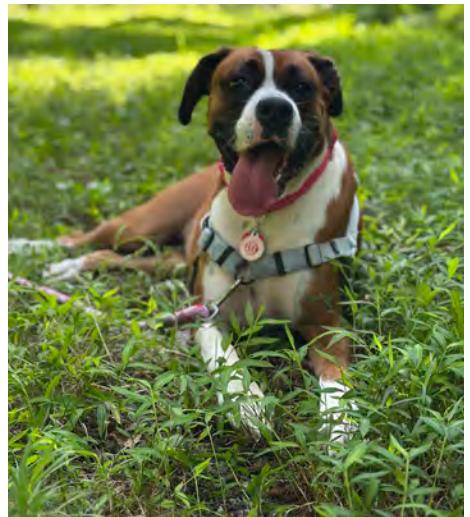
Adult & Family Programs



Invasive Plants



Forest Tree Inventory



Liability on Land Trust Trails

Land Trust Hot Topics Series

Are you currently a land trust volunteer and want to improve your stewardship work? Are you interested in getting involved in stewardship activities, helping to keep our lands preserved for future generations?

Come join Flanders as we explore the important roles we play as stewards of land trust properties. This 3-part series covers important areas of land trust work and will provide the opportunity for discussion and sharing. Register for one or all three.

Invasive Plant Mapping: CONCRETE STEPS TO IMPROVE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

Join Flanders Fellow, Christian Mollica, as he discusses the invasive plant mapping study he is completing on Flanders' preserves including his use of the Epicollect tool for mapping. Christian Mollica is currently a graduate student at Western Connecticut State University.

DATE: Tuesday, October 7

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Online/Virtual

COST: \$11/member and \$16/non-member



Forest Tree Inventory:

A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING CURRENT FOREST HEALTH & INFORMING FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Join Flanders Fellow, Jack Hatajik, as he discusses the baseline study he is completing of what tree species are currently present on Flanders' preserves and a measure of their relative health. Jack Hatajik holds a Master of Forest Science degree at the Yale School of the Environment.

DATE: Thursday, November 13

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Online/Virtual

COST: \$11/member and \$16/non-member



Liability on Land Trust Trails: DOG USE POLICIES AND OTHER LIABILITY ISSUES EXPLORED

Every land trust or preservation group that opens its spaces to the public has probably had this happen... Folks who visit very much want to bring along their pets (dogs) to enjoy the spaces with them. However, many problems can and do occur when this is permitted. Join Southbury Land Trust President, Joe Ruggiero, as he discusses how LT's can develop reasonable dog access policies and what constraints need to be applied. Doggone it, a legal, fair, and balanced policy can be achieved.

DATE: Thursday, December 4

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Online/Virtual

COST: \$11/member and \$16/non-member



Community Events

Fall Family Fun Day



JOIN US FOR SOME FESTIVE FALL FUN! Enjoy an apple cider demonstration, and we will have LOTS of pumpkins to carve, but bring your own tools. Pumpkins will be available for sale.

DATE: Saturday, October 4

TIME: 1:00–4:00 PM

PLACE: The South Barn

COST: \$10/per vehicle

GET READY FOR A WILD EXPERIENCE!

Be here at 3:00 PM for an unforgettable live animal program with Christine's Critters, a Connecticut-based nonprofit that rescues and rehabilitates injured birds of prey and reptiles.

You'll meet awe-inspiring hawks, mysterious owls, and fascinating scaled creatures up close. Each animal has an incredible story, and you'll learn how they're helping to teach the public about wildlife, conservation, and second chances.

Perfect for families, nature lovers, and anyone curious about the amazing animals that share our world!



4th Annual Art Exhibit

**OPENS
FRI
OCT
03
6:00PM**

Come out and meet local artists and view their masterpieces. The artwork will be showcased in the Van Vleck House Gallery. An opening night wine and cheese reception is planned. The exhibit will be open to the public, thereafter, until Sunday, October 12. All are encouraged to attend and support the local arts!

Friday, October 3
Opening Night Reception
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Saturday, October 4–Sunday, October 12
Open daily 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Community Events

Haunted Hikes

Join us for our 7th annual Haunted Hikes!

WIZARDS OF THE WOODS

Flanders' trusty Hermit Guides will emerge from the woods and lead your group on a Wizard's quest. Between 4 PM and 6 PM, join a family friendly hike for a not-so scary walk in the woods. But, after the sun goes down, be a braver soul for a spine chilling walk in the dark woods. The later walks are not recommended for children under 12 or the faint of heart. Be prepared for a night of adventure and dress for the worst of conditions during your journey!

DATE + TIME: Fridays, October 17 and 24
5 PM to 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 18 & 25
4 PM to 7:30 PM

LOCATION: TRAIL HOUSE

COST: \$9 per person





Flanders Artisan Marketplace

Looking for one-of-a-kind distinctive gifts that will truly be appreciated by the special people on your list?

Decked out in festive style, the Van Vleck House is the setting for our annual "Artisan Marketplace." One of the largest artisan markets in the area, you will find a wide variety of handmade creations by local crafters and artisans including fiber art, shawls, scarves, cards, ornaments, framed prints, baskets, soap, sugar scrubs and lotion bars, fun children's accessories, quilts, wreaths and greens, hand crafted jewelry, pottery, and more! Proceeds benefit local artisans and Flanders' land conservation and educational programs.

NEW! EARLY ACCESS!

Friday, November 7th from 5-7 PM. Be the first to see and shop by purchasing an Early Access Ticket! A limited amount will be sold.

DATES: Saturday, November 8 (Opening Day) through Tuesday, December 23 (closed on Thanksgiving Day)

TIME: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

PLACE: The Van Vleck House

OPEN DAILY
STARTING NOV 8
CLOSING DEC 23

INTERESTED IN SELLING YOUR HANDMADE ITEMS AT THE ARTISAN MARKETPLACE?
Contact Amber McDonald at amber@flandersnaturecenter.org.

Community Events



Flanders Wreath Making Workshops



Learn to build and decorate a beautiful holiday wreath from scratch!

Enjoy a morning or an afternoon session together as a family taking a hike to gather evergreens. We supply a 12-inch metal frame, various greens and decorations like pine cones and ornaments, and will have a supply of natural dried flowers and decorations to select from. Everyone will make their own wreath to take home or give as a gift! Registration required.

DATES: Friday: November 28

Saturdays: November 15, 22, 29 and December 6, 13

Sundays: November 16, 23, 30 and December 7, 14

TIMES: 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, or 3:00 PM

PLACE: The Sugar House

COST: \$31 members and \$41 non-members per wreath made.

WE DO PRIVATE WREATH MAKING/DECORATING PARTIES!

Contact Amber McDonald at amber@flandersnaturecenter.org.



Children & Youth Programs



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS Nature's Little Explorers

Join us for one or all four of our engaging programs that are specifically designed for caregivers and toddlers to bond together in nature!

Magical Materials

Let's explore an array of different textures, forms and colors through both natural materials like clay, sand, feathers, wood, and more. We'll then choose from these materials to make a hanging 'material mobile' that can be enjoyed for months to come!

DATE: Monday, October 6th

TIME: 1:30 to 3:00 PM

PLACE: Trail House

COST: \$10/member and \$15/non-member per child

Nature's Paintbrush

In this guided hands-on art session, we'll open young minds and hearts through joyful exploration of painting using grasses, pine needles, leaves and other materials as paint brushes on our paper canvas.

DATE: Monday, October 20th

TIME: 1:30 to 3:00 PM

PLACE: Sugar House

COST: \$10/member and \$15/non-member per child

You Won't Be-Leaf it!

Fall is all about leaves! Join us for a creative experience with various leaf crafts such as rubbed leaf impressions, leaf creatures and painted leaf prints!

DATE: Monday, November 3rd

TIME: 1:30 to 3:00 PM

PLACE: Trail House

COST: \$10/member and \$15/non-member per child

Make Some Noise!

Get into some noisy fun with us as we lead you and your little bean through some beats and rhythms using natural materials like rattling seed pods, crunchy leaves, resonant wood and more! You'll create a few nature-based instruments to take home.

DATE: Monday, November 17th

TIME: 1:30 to 3:00 PM

PLACE: Trail House

COST: \$10/member and \$15/non-member per child

Children & Youth Programs



Grade-level Next Generation Science Standards-Aligned Programs

Flanders offers an exceptional collection of field-based K-5 learning experiences to complement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These 2-hour immersive programs are fun, engaging, and authentic in a classroom of nature's design.

Our middle school field trips are 2.5 hours in length, and can be offered at the high school level as well.

KINDERGARTEN

Animals & Where They Live

Students visit farm animals and look for patterns in animal needs. They visit woodlands and learn that wild animals have similar needs. Students record observational data and recognize relationships between what animals need and where they live. NGSS Performance Expectations: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1. *Livestream version also available.*

Beavers Change Their Environment (Grades K-2)

Through evidence collection in a beaver habitat, students learn about beavers' survival needs and how altering their environment allows them to meet those needs. They describe the features of a beaver and relate structure to function. NGSS Performance Expectations: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1, K-2-ETS1-2, 1-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1 *Livestream and in-school versions also available.*

GRADE 1

Animals and Their Parts (Grades 1-2)

Visiting a variety of farm animals, students relate the structure of animal parts to their function. They apply these concepts to wild animals in an observation and discussion of taxidermy mounts, and then analyze examples of biomimicry. NGSS Performance Expectations: 1-LS1-1, K-2-ETS1-2. *Livestream and in-school versions also available.*

Nest Nurseries (Grades 1-2)

Nest building is a way parents help offspring survive. Students go on a scavenger hunt in a forest for different kinds of nests. In groups, they design and build a nest and then compare designs. They observe patterns in parental care and recognize relationships between nest structure and function. NGSS Performance Expectations: 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, K-2-ETS1-2, K-2-ETS1-3

GRADE 2

Habitat Comparison (Grades 2-3)

Students visit a forest and a pond habitat, collecting, observing and recording the diversity of life in each. They analyze graphic models of their class data, then participate in an analysis discussion. NGSS Performance Expectation: 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3. *Livestream and in-school versions, including a Grade 3 version focusing on life cycles are available.*

Pollination: Animals and Plants Depending Upon Each Other (GRADES 2-3)

Students learn the conditions needed for plants to grow, and how plants are dependent upon animals, such as bees, to reproduce. They plant sunflower seeds to use for further investigation in the classroom. Seasonally, they visit a pollinator habitat and collect data on the diversity and abundance of pollinators, or visit Flanders beekeeping area and learn



about the hive systems and about the ongoing care the bees need. Students organize and discuss their data and observations as a group. NGSS Performance Expectations: 2-LS2-2, 2-LS2-1, 2-LS4-1, 3-LS1-1 (2 hours)

Follow the Water! Making Maps from Pond to Stream to Wetland Maps show where landforms and bodies of water are in an area and how they relate to each other. Students develop mapping skills and their spatial thinking by producing their own maps, showing the route that water takes on the Van Vleck property and the spatial relationship of three different aquatic habitats. NGSS Performance Expectations: 2-ESS2-2, 2-ESS2-3

GRADE 3

A Tree to Be. Life Cycles and Inheritance Students learn that trees have life cycles, and that each stage of life has a role in the forest. They find evidence of inheritance and variation by comparing mature and sapling leaves. They then visit a forest ecosystem and measure several trees to determine stages of growth. They analyze class data and make inferences about the health of the forest. NGSS Performance Expectations: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-1. In-School version available.

NEW! A Tree to Be—Maple Syrup Season! Students learn about the life cycle of the sugar maple tree, how it compares to their own, and during which stage of life the trees are tapped in maple syrup season. Students visit a forest and measure trees to determine which are tappable, then visit the Sugar House to see

how maple syrup is made and have a taste of the final product! This field trip is offered in February and March. NGSS Performance Expectations: 3-LS1-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-ESS2-1.

GRADE 4

Watch that Slope! Stream Bank Erosion (Grades 4–5)

Students study soil erosion, factors that affect it, and its effects on streams and stream organisms. An engaging role-play is followed by fair test demonstrations using stream bank models. At a nearby stream, students examine bank sites, measure % slope of each, and draw conclusions about erosion vulnerability. NGSS Performance Expectations: 4-ESS2-1, 3-5-ETS1-3. Live stream and in-school versions available.

Beaver Behavior and Survival

With a combination of slides, video and a visit to a beaver habitat, this program will help students gain an understanding of beavers and how their internal parts and senses work together with their external parts to meet survival needs. NGSS Performance Expectations: 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2. Live stream version also available.

NEW! Maple Syrup, The Big Picture (Grades 4–5)

At the Flanders Sugar House, students learn about maple syrup production and what is special about the Sugar Maple tree. In teams, they hike to a forested area, where their challenge is to identify which of several tagged trees are Sugar Maples, measure their diameters, and determine which are 'tappable'. They discuss what exchanges occur between the maple tree and the rest of the ecosystem including

in the process of photosynthesis. This field trip is offered in February and March. 4-LS1-1, 5-ESS2-1, 5-PS3-1, 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

GRADE 5

Wetlands, a System of Interconnected Spheres

Wetland ecosystems illustrate the interconnectedness of earth's hydrosphere, biosphere, geosphere and atmosphere. Visit Flanders wetlands, collect water samples and document plant and animal life. They conduct water analysis tests, make conclusions about the health of the wetlands based upon the data they collected. NGSS Performance Expectations: 5-ESS2-1, 5-LS2-1

Energy Transfer in a Pond Ecosystem

Students study the food web structure of a Flanders pond. They collect samples of pond organisms, then separate out, identify, and count each type. They collect similar data for pond plant species. Students then use provided references to construct possible food web structures that model the flow of energy through the ecosystem. NGSS Performance Expectations: 5-PS3-1, 5-LS2-1

THREE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS NOW OFFERED!

- Cycling of Matter in a Pond Ecosystem
- Resource Availability and Wildlife Population Growth
- Impact of Human Population Growth on Natural Resources.

Visit our website for complete descriptions.

Questions Contact Eileen Reed at 203.233.9745 or eileen@flandersnaturecenter.org

Children & Youth Programs



A school bus waits for children as they participate in a field trip at the Sugar House.

SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER

Fall Field Trips

We have a variety of environmental education programs and immersive field trips for students in pre-school through grade 5.

Fall on the Land Programs

VISIT THE BARNYARD

Students observe a variety of animals found on a farm and understand the characteristics of mammals.

TAKE A TRACTOR RIDE

Our scenic wagon ride provides an opportunity for observations of wildlife and seasonal changes.

LEARN ABOUT PUMPKIN LIFE CYCLES

Students learn about plant life cycles.

LEAFY LEARNING

Learn about leaves of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Then have fun crafting and creating with them.

VISIT OUR FARM AND RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

A collection of more than 500 tools that showcases technology through time.

ADD A THEMED HIKE

through gardens, fields, and woods.

In order to achieve maximum one-on-one instruction, classes will be broken into groups, depending on the number of students. Groups will then rotate, so that all of your students will have ample time to experience each fun-filled and exciting program.

Wonders in the Water Program

Students scoop into the pond and learn about the life cycles of local amphibians, insects, mammals, reptiles and birds.

Plan your Spring Field trips now!

— MAPLE SYRUP MAGIC SHOW:

Late February–March

— SPRING ON THE FARM & LIFE IN THE POND:

April–June

COST: 2-hour program: \$10/student
3-hour program: \$12/student

DETAILS: Recommended Programs:
<50 students: 2 hour program
>50 students: 3 hour program

Programs can be customized to fit your curriculum needs and to allow for the maximum amount of outdoor education time that your schedule permits.



Adventure Days

Are you looking for a great opportunity for your children, grades kindergarten through 5th, to get some outdoor exercise, learn more about the animals that make up their world and bring their science books to life on their days off from school?! Each of the days will be packed with exploring the great outdoors, as well as age appropriate stories, games and art projects! We will care for them, entertain them and educate them while giving them a memorable day!

Pre-registration required

DATES: Reg. 14 PD Day: Friday, October 10
Columbus Day: Monday, October 13
Election Day: Tuesday, November 4
Veterans Day: Monday, November 11
MLK Jr. Day: Monday, January 19

TIME(S): 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
or
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

PLACE: Flanders Trail House: Church Hill Road, Woodbury CT

COST: HALF DAY: \$36 members / \$46 nonmembers
FULL DAY: \$72 members / \$92 nonmembers

Trail Blazers 4-H Club

Do you have a child age 7-18 that loves animals and being outdoors? Then joining the Flanders 4-H Club is the perfect fit!

UCONN 4-H is a youth organization whose mission is engaging youth to reach their fullest potential with a motto "To Make the Best Better." Members will learn all about caring for a variety of farm animals, beekeeping, responsible land care, gardening and forestry. Also, as a club member you will have the opportunity to attend educational meetings, go on field trips or show off your new skills at the 4-H Fair. In the process, you will make new friends, solve problems and make a difference in your neighborhood or even in the world! The Van Vleck 200-acre campus with our North Barn animals presents perfect opportunities to learn the responsibilities of raising livestock and many land management challenges. For more information, please contact the Flanders office at 203-263-3711 x12.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Head to [Flandersnaturecenter.org/4H/](http://flandersnaturecenter.org/4H/)



For more information, contact us!

Call the Flanders office at 203.263.3711, x12 or email flanders@flandersnaturecenter.org

Children & Youth Programs

YEAR ROUND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

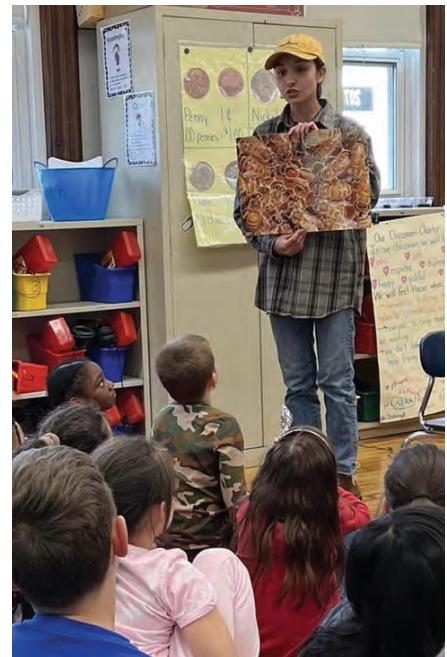
Check Out All That We Have to Offer

Our grounds provide a perfect spot for exploring the outdoors, with 200 acres of forests, ponds, farm fields, meadows, wetlands, and streams—all of which support a diversity of wildlife.



Birthday Parties!

We offer parties on Saturdays or Sundays year round! Affordable and fun, there are a variety of themes to choose from including animals and art to fairy fun. Hiking, games and stories, live animals and even tractor rides can all be made a part of the celebration! Call us for more information and to brainstorm what will make for an unforgettable party for your birthday child.



Scout Programs

- » We can help your Boy and Girl Scouts earn badges and complete community service projects! Programs can be tailored to the needs of individual troops.
- » Eagle Scout and Gold and Silver Award projects have been done at Flanders.

For a list of ideas which we feel would benefit Flanders—or with an idea of your own, email Program Coordinator, Ana Jordan, at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org.



"We Come To You" Workshops

THE WONDERS OF NATURE AT YOUR SITE

Our talented naturalists and educators can travel to your school, group or program location to provide educational and engaging nature programs.



Supervised Agricultural Experience

Do you know (or are you) an agricultural education student searching for placement in an organization to complete your Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)? Look no further, we are the perfect place to obtain those SAE hours! We welcome students from the local area agricultural education programs. Our North Barn, under the guidance of our Farm Manager, offers an excellent opportunity to learn and apply knowledge about the care of livestock. Our sanctuary with its forest, fields, trails and ponds is a superb location to further your understanding and utilize your skills in environmental systems!

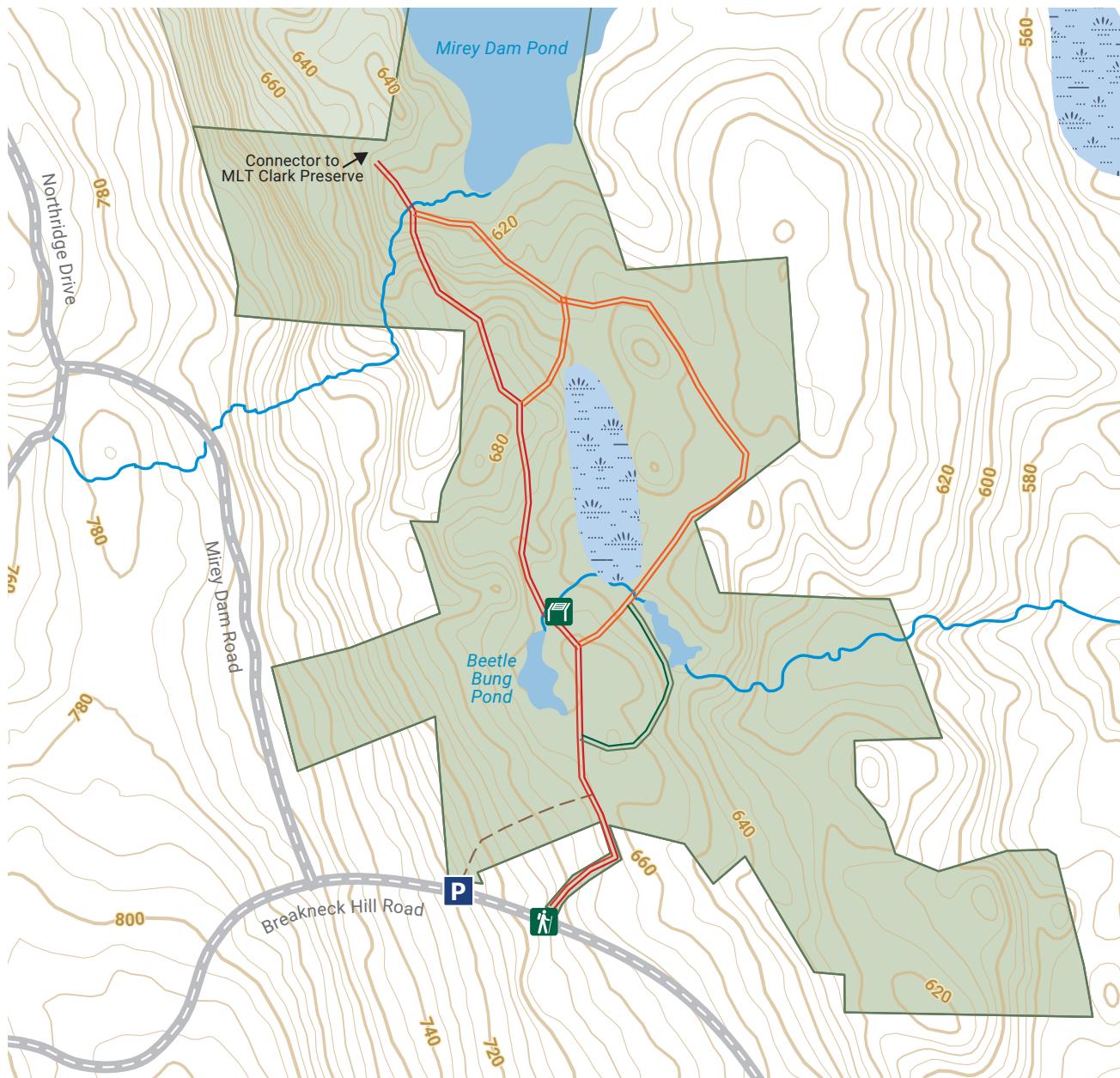


5 Church Hill Road
Woodbury, CT 06798
phone 203.263.3711
flandersnaturecenter.org

Hetzel Refuge

Breakneck Hill Road, Middlebury, CT

REV
6.16.25



MAP ELEMENTS

	Preserve Boundary		Watercourse		Road
	Other Protected Land		Waterbody		Trailhead (No Parking)
	Parking		Marsh		Plaque

TRAILS

	Red (0.44 mi)
	Green (0.11 mi)
	Orange (0.45 mi)
	Field Trail

PRESERVE RULES

- Leave No Trace. No litter.
- Do not remove or destroy plants and wildlife.
- Open sunrise to sunset, daily.
- Park cars in designated areas.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- No hunting, fires, drones, or loud music.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times.



SCALE: 1:4,800

0 125 250 500 750 FEET

5 FT CONTOURS

50 ft Major
 5 ft Minor

OPEN IN AVENZA

Scan this QR code to open this map and track your location:



Community Partners

Exciting programs and news from our regional partners in conservation.



Audubon Center
at Bent of the River

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
bentoftheriver.audubon.org



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT
bethlehemlandtrustct.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
middleburylandtrust.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
pomperaug.org/events



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
pomperaugvalleygc.org



The Ellis Clark
Regional Agriscience
and Technology
Program at

NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL offers Adult Education classes. Held in fall and spring, classes include fly fishing, floral arranging, small engine repair, and more! To learn more and register visit www.woodburyffa.org/adulted. If your child is interested in the high school program, and is from one of our 13 sending towns, please visit woodburyffa.org.



ROXBURY LAND TRUST
Since 1970

FOR MORE
INFORMATION, VISIT
roxburylandtrust.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
southburylandtrust.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
steeprockassoc.org



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
watertownlandtrust.org

Reminders & Registration

Three Ways to Register

ONLINE

Register by visiting flandersnaturecenter.org/program-events/. Available 24/7. Pay with Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover.

BY PHONE

Call 203.263.3711 x12 between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday–Friday

IN PERSON

Flanders South Farm Administrative Offices at 596 Flanders Rd. Woodbury, CT. Pay with a check (payable to Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust), cash or credit card.

Notes & Reminders

ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION

Events and programs with low enrollment are subject to cancellation shortly before it's set to start. Register early to make sure the program you want has adequate enrollment to run. In the event of a filled program or cancellation, we will make every attempt to notify you by phone and/or email.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

We reserve the right to cancel an event or program due to inclement weather conditions. If an event or program is canceled that you have registered for, we will notify you by phone and/or email. Also, we will post a notification on the Flanders website and on our social media accounts.

WAITING LISTS Waiting lists will be taken on events and programs with enrollment limits. We will notify you when there are openings.

PHOTO POLICY Flanders reserves the right to photograph program participants for publicity purposes.

GIFT CERTIFICATES Gift Certificates are available for purchase. For additional information, please call us at 203.263.3711.

PROCESSING FEE There is a non-refundable processing fee on all programs.

CATALOG ERRORS We try to ensure that the information in this catalog is accurate, but on occasion we may have missed something or printed a wrong time or price. We apologize if you find any errors.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE All children and adults are invited to participate in our programs. If you or your child needs accommodations for a disability or special needs, please contact Flanders.

TRAILS The trails on our seven hiking preserves are open dawn to dusk. Dogs are allowed on our trails on a leash at all times.

COVID-19 UPDATE We continue to monitor conditions daily. Flanders follows all state and local health official guidelines.



Office Contact

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust

MAILING ADDRESS: 5 Church Hill Road

OFFICE ADDRESS: 596 Flanders Road
Woodbury, CT 06798

PHONE: 203.263.3711

FAX: 203.263.2214

EMAIL: flanders@flandersnaturecenter.org

WEB: flandersnaturecenter.org

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM–5PM
Monday–Friday

FOR THE LATEST



[instagram.com/flandersnaturecenter/](https://www.instagram.com/flandersnaturecenter/)



[facebook.com/FlandersNatureCenter](https://www.facebook.com/FlandersNatureCenter)



x.com/fnclt



North Barn
644 Flanders Road



Studio
5 Church Hill Road



South Farm House & South Barn
Administrative Office
596 Flanders Road



Van Vleck House
5 Church Hill Road



Trail House
47 Church Hill Road
1.4 mile from
corner of Flanders & Church
Hill Road on the left



Sugar House
48 Church Hill Road
1.4 mile from corner of
Flanders & Church
Hill Road on the right

LOCATION INFORMATION

Join Us Today!

