Everything Maple!

FIVE DECADES OF MAKING MAPLE SYRUP . . . AND COUNTING!
INTRODUCING FLANDERS FIRST CATALOG—OUR NEW PUBLICATION SHOWCASING ALL THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER.

This is an exciting next step in Flanders 57 year history of meeting its mission to foster understanding and appreciation of nature, art and the wonders of the natural world through land preservation, stewardship and education. I invite you to take a look inside this catalog and then venture outside with us. Join us on a guided hike, attend one of our classes, sign-up your children for an adventure or come to one of our special events. There are many ways for you to connect with us and to stay connected to the natural world. And remember membership has its benefits, including reduced program, camp and activity fees—as well as special program invites (page 16).

So for 2020 . . . embrace winter in New England! Join us at one of our signature Maple Syrup Programs (page 2), discuss issues that matter for our environment: Hidden Life of Trees, environmental book club (page 6), or use your hands and heart to build a Bluebird House for your own backyard (page 9).

Hope to see you soon,

Vincent D. LaFontan, MHA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
January 25 .......................... AUTHOR VISIT—DAVID LEFF
February 1 .......................... MAPLE TAPPING DAY (WEATHER PERMITTING)
March 1 .............................. ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
April 2 .............................. ANNUAL MEETING
April 7 .............................. ART EXCURSION
April 10–17 ......................... SPRING BREAK VACATION CAMP
May 3 .............................. FARM TEA
May 16 .............................. FLANDERS FESTIVAL
June 5 .............................. FIELD & FOREST 5K
June 15 .............................. SUMMER CAMP BEGINS
August 23 ......................... GALA & AUCTION
October 17, 23, 24, 30 .......... HAUNTED HIKES
November 14 ..................... WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS START
November 21 ..................... ARTISAN MARKETPLACE OPENS
A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Five Decades of Making Maple Syrup . . . and counting!

Flanders started the Maple Syrup Program in 1966. The original Sap House, which served us faithfully through the 2002 season, was built with assistance from the Junior League of Greater Waterbury, and was located on land leased to Flanders by John and Marlice Fleming.

A handful of volunteers have served as syrup makers at Flanders, spending countless hours by the evaporator, sometimes through dark and lonely nights, tending the boiling sap as lovingly as they might a newborn baby. The first of this breed was Bob Brown, in the 1960’s. He was followed by Ed Briggs, who served the nature center for several decades as the Naturalist/Land Manager, working very closely with Miss Van Vleck. Then Bill Akins took over and labored over the sweet and steamy vats (after logging 15 years helping out with other aspects of the Maple Syrup Program). For the past ten years, Harry Gerowe has lead the charge as master syrup maker along with a dedicated team of volunteers.

Maple Syrup making became a very popular program at Flanders over the years, drawing hundreds of visitors each winter and dozens of volunteers who serve as interpreters, tree tappers, sap collectors, wood choppers and all-around helpers at the Sugar House. As the demands on the facility grew, and the aging equipment sagged under the weight of time and use, the charming little red hut in the woods saw its last gallon of sap cooked and its last bottle of syrup capped in 2002. The time had come for a new Sugar House.

And what a Sugar House we created together! A classically designed post and beam structure by Vermont Frames, the building reflects the work of many friends and supporters of Flanders, most notably Bill Anthony (William Anthony Construction), Guy Gabrielson (architect) and Henry Hart (surveyor). A community barn-raising in June of 2002, helped to get the structure off the ground.

Traditions run deep at Flanders. The Pape family once again stepped forward to fund a new wood-fired evaporator, replacing the one they donated in the 1960’s. New storage tanks were bought with a grant from the Woodbury Junior Women’s Club. They are among the countless people and organizations that have supported Flanders faithfully over the decades.

The distinctive silhouette of our new Sugar House, gracefully nestled among the Christmas trees at the Van Vleck Farm & Nature Sanctuary, stands in solid testament to Flanders’ commitment to bringing the wonder of nature to all.
Maple Volunteer Information Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, January 21 | TIME: 7:00 PM | PLACE: The Sugar House
Each year Flanders taps and collects sap from dozens of trees both at the nature center and around the Town of Woodbury. We invite anyone with an interest in maple sugaring to attend our volunteer information meeting. There will be an overview of the 2020 season and details on the many interesting volunteer opportunities. If you are unable to attend the session but are interested in volunteering during the maple season, then please call the office and we will be happy to match your interests to volunteer opportunities. Refreshments will be served. To register for the information session please call 203.263.3711, ext. 12.

Maple Tapping Day (Weather Permitting)
DATE: Saturday, February 1 | TIME: 9:30 AM | PLACE: The Sugar House
It all begins when the temperature rises above freezing during the day and falls below freezing at night. These conditions trigger the sap to begin to flow up the tree. A healthy tree can produce a gallon of sap a day on a good day. It takes 40 gallons to make 1 gallon of syrup. No experience is needed for tapping and all ages and families are welcome to come to help out. Tree tapping day is very weather dependent. Those interested in taking part in tapping day should watch for further announcements on Flanders’ website and Facebook page.

Maple Syrup Demonstrations
DATES: Saturday February 22, 29 and March 7; Sunday February 23, and March 1, 8 | TIME: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM | PLACE: The Sugar House
Everyone is welcome to drop by the Sugar House as Flanders staff and volunteers demonstrate turning sap into syrup with an entertaining mix of science, stories and humor. The entire family will be fascinated by the maple sugar-making process. There is a $3/ person donation suggested which will go to support Flanders future maple sugar programming.

Pancake Breakfast
DATE: Sunday, March 1 | TIME: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM | PLACE: Woodbury Emergency Services Building
Bring the family and join us for our Annual Pancake Breakfast! The menu features all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausages, coffee, orange juice and Flanders’ very own maple syrup. The cost for the breakfast is $7 for adults, and $5 for ages 5 to 11. Children under 5 are free. All proceeds from the breakfast will benefit Flanders’ education programs.

Maple Syrup Magic: Field Trip Information
DATES: Late February through March
Bring your group or class to Flanders and receive a full sensory experience! Participants learn how to identify sugar maples, see where maple syrup comes from and how sap is collected from trees and cooked in a working sugar house. They will also learn the history and folk-lore of how Native Americans and early settlers made maple products. Discover maple math and finish with a taste of the final sweet product. This is a special 1-hour program. $6 per attendee ($120 minimum)
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust offers numerous opportunities for members and friends to volunteer time, skills and their talents with the organization and the community. We rely on volunteers to carry out our mission of preserving and caring for more than 2,300 acres of protected property in the region.

One of these volunteers is Woodbury’s very own Dave Terry. Dave moved to town after his retirement in 2000, and attended Flanders annual Maple Sugaring program. Just a year later, he started volunteering in the program, and soon after began helping us out with other maintenance projects around our campus as well.

In 2008, Dave became involved with the Land Management Committee (LMC) first initially assisting the LMC Chairman installing property boundary signage and trail maintenance projects. Eventually, becoming the Trail Maintenance Coordinator, which he has been championing ever since.

“I like volunteering at Flanders,” Dave says. “It gets me out into the woods hiking around, using a chainsaw, and generally enjoying nature.” He expressed that volunteering gives him a wonderful sense of accomplishment especially when he hears feedback from fellow hikers like, “the trails are in such good shape.” He believes this is one way to give something back to the community.

“Dave has an amazing spirit,” Ana Jordan, Flanders Program Coordinator, says. “He is always willing to help and has a smile about it too. He will take on just about any task I might approach him with including helping others become successful volunteers too. Building a new bridge/trail is not something everyone knows how to do. But with the right volunteers willing to help out, and with someone talented like Dave leading the way, volunteering at Flanders can be a most fulfilling and rewarding experience.”

Whether you’d like to volunteer for just a day, or help out when you have the time, Flanders needs you! Please contact Flanders’ coordinator Ana Jordan at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org to learn more about available volunteer opportunities! And thanks Dave . . . you are an amazing Flanders volunteer!

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**Annual Meeting**

**Woodbury Senior Center**

265 Main Street South, Woodbury

Join us as we conduct our annual meeting, celebrate our volunteers, including announcing the 2019 Volunteer of the Year, and hear from a fabulous keynote speaker. A short business meeting will precede the presentation. Refreshments will be served.

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**Flanders Farm Tea**

**The Van Vleck House**

To celebrate Flanders first beginnings as a working farm, the Flanders Art Committee will host its Fourth Annual 1920s-themed Farm Tea in the original Flanders farmhouse. The Farm Tea will feature a selection of teas as well as jams, homemade cakes, scones, sandwiches and cookies. A highlight will be a raffle for a basket filled with locally sourced items.

The Farm Tea will include a short talk by Jim Frey, owner of Walker Road Vineyards in Woodbury and a member of Flanders Art Committee. He will give a brief history of his winery. The talk will be held in the Natalie Van Vleck Studio, which is situated a few steps away from the farmhouse. Natalie’s artwork will be on display in her Studio.

We look forward to taking you back in time to the 1920s, to when farm teas were commonplace, and to when a young New York artist fell in love with the beautiful landscape, subsequently making it her home where she painted, then went on to farm those original 200 acres and purchased more land, now accessible to all as the Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust.

Reservations are necessary by calling Flanders at 203.263.3711 ext. 12 or visiting flandersnaturecenter.org to purchase tickets. The raffle drawing is included in the $25 ticket for the talk and tea. Proceeds from the Tea will support preservation and the furthering of Natalie Van Vleck’s artistic legacy. Please reserve early since space is limited!
EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Community Service Day: Earth Day 2020

Join fellow community members for a day of service on Earth Day! Volunteers will work to remove non-native plant species on a Flanders preserved property.

Non-native or invasive plants have a negative effect on native plants and wildlife communities. The goal is to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the invasive plants. Clearing the way for local species to reclaim their territory and creating a healthy environment for the plants and animals that call Connecticut home. Please bring lots of water, snacks, lunch. Also, please wear closed-toe footwear, long pants and work gloves. Bring shovels, pruning shears/loppers/clippers to this event.

We ask that you leave all furry friends at home. Community service hours can be provided for this event. Meeting location will be sent to those who have signed up to volunteer. Help us make a positive and lasting impact on a Flanders preserved property by joining us for this very important Community Service Day!

FOR MORE INFORMATION and to sign-up to volunteer, please contact the Flanders office at 203.263.3711 ext. 10 or email Flanders Program Coordinator, Ana Jordan, at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org.
The Arts

Needle Felting Classes
Join Rachel Gerowe of Redbarn Originals for needle felting nights at Flanders! Needle felting is an easy-to-learn craft that involves using a barbed needle to sculpt wool. Participants can attend for $10 and choose to either bring their own project to be given guidance and support on or purchase a kit for an additional fee. Assorted kits will be available, ranging in price from $10–$35. Space is limited and participants must register in advance!

DATE (S):
- Thursday, January 30: Tigers Kit
- Thursday, February 27: Sleepy Foxes Kit
- Thursday, March 26: Sheep Kit
- Thursday, April 30: Goats Kit

TIME: 7:00–9:00 PM
PLACE: The Studio
COST: $10/class, plus (optional) cost of kit

Natalie Van Vleck: Her Legacy and Lost Works of Art
One year after our important retrospective dedicated to the modernist art and land conservation legacy of Flanders founder, Natalie Van Vleck, at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT; in 2020, The Year of the Woman for museums across our nation, it is time to revisit Natalie's work, share ongoing research and our hopes and aspirations for her future. We will speak about her role in early 20th century American Modernist art, some challenges we face in unearthing or verifying new information, (the Other Natalie Van Vleck!), and discuss tantalizing "Lost Works" yet untraced by our founder, known only from cryptic catalogue entries or tiny archival photos. Please join Flanders Curator Marc Chabot and Flanders Art Committee for this fascinating lecture and presentation of her work and life both on screen, and on exhibition in Natalie's historic studio.

DATE: Friday, February 21
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: The Studio
COST: $10/members and $15/nonmembers

Flanders Art Excursion
Join the Flanders Art Committee for a docent-guided tour of the Yale Center for British Art (YCBA) in New Haven, including their new exhibit: Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement. "Victorian Radicals will bring together approximately 145 paintings, works on paper, and works of decorative art—many never shown outside the UK—to illuminate this most dynamic period of British art in an exhibition of unparalleled historical and visual richness. These artists' attention to detail, use of vibrant colors, and engagement with both literary themes and contemporary life will be illustrated through a selection of paintings, drawings, and watercolors presented alongside superb examples of decorative art." Participants are to meet in the lobby of the museum. The tour will be one hour and then all are free to wander the museum or visit the gift shop. All interested parties encouraged to attend; however, registration is requested.

DATE: Tuesday, April 7
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Yale Center for British Art, 1080 Chapel St., New Haven, CT
COST: There is no charge for admission and tour. Lunch is on your own at the Atticus Bookstore and Café on the ground level.
FLANDERS IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A BRAND NEW SERIES:

Hiking with An Average Jill

Hiking as Exercise with An Average Jill
I like to get exercise as a byproduct of an activity I enjoy. For me, that’s hiking. Since cooler temps under a bright sunny sky present the best conditions for being active outdoors, the winter months can offer some of the best hiking conditions. Join me on a mid-week day hike as I adventure through the more challenging trails within Flanders Nature Preserve. This is a hike, not a run, but we’ll keep a steady cadence, stopping only occasionally.

DATE(S): Thursday, February 13th (rain date: February 20th) 
Tuesday, March 24th (rain date: March 31st)
TIME: 1:00 PM (Both sessions)
LOCATION: 1st Hike: Van Vleck Studio Parking Area
5 Church Hill Rd, Woodbury
2nd Hike: Whittemore Sanctuary Parking Area
Rt. 64, Sherman Hill Rd, Woodbury
DISTANCE: 3–5 miles
TIMING: Approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours
COST: Per Hike: $5/members and $10/non-members

Discover the Beauty of Flanders with An Average Jill
No matter how many times I frequent a trail, there are always new things to see, and the winter months are no exception. From critter tracks in the freshly fallen snow; to the amazing ice formations that form along rivers and brooks. The winter dresses nature in a simple elegance. Follow me as I guide hikers along scenic trails within Flanders’ Whittemore Nature preserve, while I point out interesting landmarks and share quirky observations.

DATE: Sunday, February 23rd (rain date: Sunday, March 22nd)
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Whittemore Sanctuary Parking Area
Rt. 64, Sherman Hill Rd, Woodbury
DISTANCE: 2–3 miles
TIMING: Approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours
COST: $5/members and $10/non-members

Trail Photography with An Average Jill
Solo hikes with my camera have become one of my favorite pastimes. Without distractions, I can spot the unusual leaf, a face in a tree, or the feather gracefully blowing in the wind. On this hike, I’ll try to replicate that solo experience, but in a small group that will introduce those to the experience who may not be comfortable hiking alone. The group size will be limited, and conversation will be kept at a minimum to allow for a more personal experience. We’ll maintain a slow, but steady pace, to allow individuals to pause and capture trailside photos. Beginner photographers are encouraged and welcome.

DATE(S): Sunday, March 8th (rain date: March 15th)
Tuesday, April 21st (rain date: April 28th)
TIME: 1:00 PM (Both hikes)
LOCATION: Sunday hike: Van Vleck Studio Parking Area
5 Church Hill Rd, Woodbury
Tuesday hike: Whittemore Sanctuary Parking Area
Rt. 64, Sherman Hill Rd, Woodbury
DISTANCE: 2–3 miles
TIMING: Approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours
COST: Per Hike: $10/members and $15/non-members

Hiking Under the Moon with An Average Jill
If you’ve never hiked in the woods at night, I encourage you join me for a hike under the night sky. Experience the spell of the moon’s magical iridescence, while you thrill over the unique sounds of nature at night. We’ll make a short trek to a wide clearing that offers views of the sky. There, we’ll take in the brilliance of the majestic moon before we hike back under the stars. It’s an exhilarating experience.

DATE: Wednesday, April 8th (rain date: Thursday, April 9th)
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Meet at the Van Vleck Studio Parking Area
5 Church Hill Rd, Woodbury
DISTANCE: 1–2 miles
TIMING: Approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours
COST: $5/members and $10/non-members
WOODBARD OUTDOOR SCIENCE & LEARNING INITIATIVE

Winter–Spring Programs

Maple Sugaring: Keeping it Real in New England
Join author David K. Leff for a slide illustrated talk about maple sugaring. Explore the mysteries and mystique of maple sugaring and meet the dedicated, sometimes quirky folks who make it. Find out how this unique ancient northeastern North American product was discovered and the high-tech techniques it takes to produce today. As a former sugar maker and board member of the Connecticut Maple Syrup Producers Association, he'll give you an insider's view. David's book, Maple Sugaring: Keeping it Real in New England, will be available for sale and signing.

DATE: Saturday, January 25
TIME: 2:00–4:00 PM
PLACE: The Studio
COST: $10/members and $15/non-members

Beekeeping Series
Learn to be a beekeeper! Take our popular introductory beekeeping course on the art and science of beekeeping. Led by Al Avitabile, Emeritus Professor in the Biology Department at UCONN, co-author of The Beekeeper's Handbook and noted beekeeper and researcher, the workshops will promote the importance of pollinators and show students how to start and keep a hive, as well as brainstorm new ideas to help keep our pollinators alive and thriving. This series will consist of three classes and two field trips to an apiary.

DATE: Friday, March 13, 20 & 27
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: The Studio
COST: $85/members and $120/non-members

DATE: Saturday, April 4 & 11
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Field trip to local Apiary
COST: $85/members and $120/non-members

Geology Field Trip to O&G Quarry
Have you wondered about Connecticut's mysterious volcanic past? Join Flanders on one of two scheduled tours of O&G's Southbury trap rock quarry for a field trip highlighting some fascinating geological facts and views of ancient volcanic rocks and minerals. O&G Industries has generously offered to open their quarry to Flanders field trip participants for a special geology program led by Dr. Thomas Fleming, Professor of Geology and the Chairperson of the Earth Science Department at Southern Connecticut State University. Appropriate for all ages, a fun and informative slide lecture will be followed by a guided tour of the quarry to identify ancient rocks and minerals.

DATE: Saturday, April 18
TIME: 10:00 AM–12:00 PM or 1:30–3:30 PM
PLACE: O&G Traprock Quarry, 236 Roxbury Road in Southbury, CT
COST: $10/members and $15/non-members

DATE: Saturday, February 22
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: Shepaug Dam
COST: $5/members and $10/non-members

Bald Eagle Viewing
Flanders has reserved a time slot for a group to visit the Shepaug Dam Recreation Area in Southbury for an eagle watch. A docent will be on hand to help with the viewing and to answer questions about America's national symbol. There are a limited number of spotting scopes available at the site, so feel free to bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras. Space is limited; you must preregister. Those registered meet in the commuter lot at Exit 14 off I-84 at 9:15 AM.

DATE: Saturday, February 22
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: Shepaug Dam
COST: $5/members and $10/non-members
**EASTERN BLUEBIRD SERIES**

**Eastern Bluebird Roundtable Discussion**
Come join us at Flanders for a roundtable discussion on the bluebird nest box initiative. Share both your nest box successes and challenges. Topics will include the bluebird life cycle, mating processes, nest box location, the importance of monitoring the boxes and predation problems. Together, let’s keep the initiative alive and attempt to provide the most ideal conditions for bluebird survival. Open to everyone, experienced and newcomers alike.

**DATE:** Saturday, February 8  
**TIME:** 2:00–4:00 PM  
**PLACE:** The Studio  
**COST:** Complimentary, donations kindly accepted

**Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Building**
Master Naturalist Dr. Edward Boisits will provide background on the history of the Eastern Bluebird and discuss the role of the nest box initiative in helping to increase the populations of the beautiful birds to sustainable levels. Following the presentation, participants will build their own nest box using kits provided.

**DATE:** Saturdays, February 15 & 29  
**TIME:** 2:00 PM  
**PLACE:** The Studio  
**COST:** $20 per bluebird box kit

**Vernal Pools**
Come discover and learn about Flanders’ vernal pools and amphibian breeding places! Vernal pools are fishless temporary spring ponds that form in the forest essential to many amphibians and other aquatic creatures. During this program, Ph.D. biologist and DEEP Certified Master Naturalist Edward Boisits will discuss the importance of vernal pools. Then the group will head into the night to try to get a glimpse of some pools and see what their nocturnal inhabitants are up to!

**DATE:** Saturday, March 21  
**TIME:** 8:00 PM  
**PLACE:** The Sugar House  
**COST:** $5/members and $10/non-members

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**Did You Know?**

SINCE 2014, FLANDERS HAS RECORDED **251** BLUEBIRD FLEDGES

**1** OUNCE  
WEIGHT OF AN ADULT BLUEBIRD

**17** MPH  
TOP SPEED OF A BLUEBIRD

**6–10** YEARS  
AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF A BLUEBIRD IN THE WILD

The increase in worldwide bluebird numbers is the result of a volunteer movement establishing and maintaining bluebird trails.

**60’** DISTANCE FROM WHICH BLUEBIRDS CAN SIGHT PREY

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www.flandersnaturecenter.org   |  page 9
Trail Hike Series

Whittemore Bog Winter Hike
Weather permitting, join us for some fresh air, exercise and insight into bog ecology in the winter. Wetland ecologist and soil scientist, Kyle Turoczi, will guide a group to explore bog ecology while the water is frozen, so we can safely go out and learn about the plants and animals that live there. All interested parties encouraged to attend; please wear boots and warm clothing. Ice cleats are recommended.

DATE: Saturday, February 1
TIME: 1:00–3:00 PM
PLACE: Whittemore Sanctuary, Rt. 64 (Sherman Hill Rd.), Woodbury
COST: $10/members and $15/non-members

Old Sap House Hike
Connect with nature and learn some Flanders history at the same time! Former Flanders Executive Director, Arthur Milnor, will lead a hike on our Fleming Preserve, which is the site of the original Flanders sap house. This guided hike will give attendees fascinating information about the beginnings of our maple sugaring production as it traverses the forest land containing sugar maples. This beautiful property also includes a former apple orchard, stone walls, and a spectacular scenic overlook. Those participating in the hike should wear boots and warm clothing.

DATE: Saturday, March 7
TIME: 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
PLACE: Fleming Preserve, Cowles Rd., Woodbury
COST: Complimentary/members and $5/non-members

Hike the Hetzel
Everyone’s invited to come out and explore the Hetzel Refuge in Middlebury with Flanders trail maintenance coordinator and 2018 Volunteer of the Year, Dave Terry! The Hetzel is a pristine wooded refuge of 66 acres and offers prime observation areas for both birds and animals. It has an excellent trail system traversing woodlands, hayfields, conifer plantations, swamps, and several man-made ponds, all of which provide a haven for wildlife. This guided hike by Dave will provide information about the property and the beaver lodges and activity on Mirey Dam Pond. Dress for the weather and wear terrain appropriate footgear.

DATE: Saturday, April 4
TIME: 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
PLACE: Hetzel Refuge, Breakneck Hill Rd., Middlebury
COST: Complimentary/members and $5/non-members

Earth Day Hike
Let’s celebrate Earth Day together with a hike through the beautiful and historic Flanders’ Van Vleck Sanctuary. Master Naturalist Dr. Edward Boisits will be leading the leisurely Earth Day walk pointing out the signs that signify the change of the season. What better way to celebrate Earth Day than with fresh air, camaraderie, and exercise in a lovely Flanders environment? This walk is suitable for all ages and hiking levels.

DATE: Saturday, April 25
TIME: 9:00 AM–11:00 AM
PLACE: Van Vleck Sanctuary @ the Sugar House, Church Hill Rd., Woodbury
COST: Complimentary/members and $5/non-members
Flanders’ Clubs

Want to join the Photography Club?
The Club’s focus is outdoor nature photography, which aligns to Flanders’ mission “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 with a spotlight on nature, flora, fauna and the landscape. Meeting content will include fundamental instruction on the basics of outdoor photography, camera operation, features and techniques as well as various tips. Meetings will include presentations, forums, and guest speakers, plus outdoor exercises and projects, such as macro, wildlife and bird photography. We will create our own community of nature lovers and photographers!

DATE: Every third Wednesday of the month
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Natalie Van Vleck Studio
COST: $20/members and $40/non-members per year

Environmental Book Club
Announcing the first Flanders Environmental Book Club! Join reading enthusiast and book club leader, Sara Kovack, in discussing current, historical and future environmental issues through books! Readers will come together once a month to share and discuss texts that help connect us to nature. Fiction and nonfiction books with be included with a focus on conservation and the outdoors. The first book is *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World* by Peter Wohlleben (members are on their own for acquiring the book). Everyone is welcome to join us for an engaging discussion with like-minded individuals, and snacks! The book club will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month.

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, March 25 & April 22
TIME: 5:30–7:00 PM
PLACE: The Studio

Winterscape” Photography Contest
Test your skills and join in on the winter fun by participating in Flanders 2020 “Winterscape” Photography Contest! Prizes will be awarded for the best submissions based on composition, image quality, originality and the story the image tells. The “Winterscape” photo contest is an invitation to capture the spirit and beauty of the winter season in all of its splendor with images that might include landscapes, or wildlife pictured in a wintry context. The photos do not need to be taken on a Flanders property, but instead can be taken anywhere that provides the photographer inspiration. All proceeds benefit Flanders programming.

DATE: Begins January 15 and ends on February 28.
COST: One submission is $5; two for $7; three for $10; four for $13; five for $15.
DETAILS: Entries must be in digital JPEG format. All submitted images will be judged by Flanders staff and experienced photography associates. Winners will be announced on March 10 and shared in a special gallery on the Flanders website and on social media. Further details can be found online or by calling the Flanders office.
Learning Experiences for Schools, Groups & Programs

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Aligned

Flanders is offering a new portfolio of student learning experiences tailored specifically to NGSS. When students visit they will have an educational experience that is not only fun, but immersive, engaging, hands-on and authentic in a classroom of nature’s design.

NGSS Programs are grade-specific. Each program can be incorporated into your grade-level unit plans, or tailored to be a self-contained experience. Our enriching out-in-nature lessons help prepare students to meet key performance expectations laid out in NGSS.

KINDERGARTEN

Animals & Where They Live

Students meet a variety of farm animals, learn what they are, what they eat, and why they live where they live. Students go to a nearby woodland habitat, they learn that wild animals have similar needs and live where those needs are met. Students will record observational data, identify patterns and recognize relationships between what animals need and where they live. NGSS Performance Expectations: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1

Beavers Change Their Environment

Through observation and outdoor evidence collection, students gain an understanding of beavers, their survival needs, and how where they live and how altering their environment allows them to meet those needs. Students identify and describe the features of a beaver that help it survive. NGSS Performance Expectations: K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1

GRADE 1

Animals and Their Parts

Students meet a variety of farm animals. They relate the structure of animal body parts to their function, and consider how humans might mimic these parts in designing a solution to a problem. Students apply these same concepts to wild animals in an observational discussion of several taxidermy mounts. Students will record observational data, identify patterns and recognize relationships between animal structures and their functions, and how these structures help in survival. NGSS Performance Expectations: 1-LS1-1, K-2-ETS1-2

Nest Nurseries

Through discussion, video clips, and an outdoor scavenger hunt in a deciduous forest, students learn and observe how different species, nest building is one way that parents help offspring survive. Working in collaborative groups, students design and build a nest, using available materials, and compare the strengths and weaknesses of designs. They record data, identify patterns in parental care, recognize relationships between nest structure and function, and design a solution to a problem. Best experienced mid-fall through mid-spring. NGSS Performance Expectations: 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1, K-2-ETS1-2, K-2-ETS1-3

Follow the Water! Making Maps from Pond to Stream to Wetland

Maps are an important tool for wildlife managers, foresters, land managers and scientists of many kinds. Maps can show where land forms and bodies of water are in an area and how they relate to each other. Students develop 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 bodies of water. In the process, they visit and observe three different aquatic habitats, a pond, a stream, and a wetland. NGSS Performance Expectations: 2-ESS2-2, 2-ESS2-3

GRADE 2

Pollination: Animals & Plants Depend on Each Other

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 and use these for further investigation in the classroom. They visit a pollinator habitat, collect data on the diversity and abundance of pollinators, and organize and discuss their data as a group. Best experienced in late spring through mid-fall. NGSS Performance Expectations: 2-LS2-2, 2-LS2-1, 2-LS4-1

Habitat Comparison

Students visit two different habitats, a forest and a pond. In each, they observe and record the diversity of plant and animal life. They communicate their findings, organize the class data into a graphic model, then participate in an analysis discussion with their classmates. NGSS Performance Expectation: 2-LS4-1

GRADE 3

A Tree to Be. Life Cycles and Inheritance

Students learn that like humans and other animals, trees have life cycles that include birth, growth, reproduction and death. They also learn that trees inherit traits, and have similarities and differences compared to parent and sibling trees. After an introduction to the life cycle and stages of growth in common tree species (such as Oak and Maple), students find evidence of inheritance and variation by comparing mature and sapling leaves, then they visit a forest ecosystem and observe and measure several trees in various stages of growth, leading to conclusions about factors that can influence tree survival in nature. NGSS Performance Expectations: 3-LS1-1, 3LS3-1
GRADE 4
Watch that Slope! Stream Bank Erosion
Through simulation, demonstration, and on-site observation and measurement, students learn about soil erosion, factors that affect it, and possible effects of erosion on water quality of a stream. An engaging role-play is followed by a brief explanation of erosion, then a demonstration using stream bank models. At a nearby stream, students observe and describe the features of different stream bank sites, measure % slope of each, and draw conclusions about erosion vulnerability. NGSS Performance Expectations: 4-ESS2-1, 3-5-ETS1-3

GRADE 5
Wetlands, a System of Interconnected Spheres
Wetlands are unique and vital ecosystems. They are part of the earth’s hydrosphere, yet tightly connected to and influenced by the biosphere, geosphere and atmosphere. Students learn why wetlands are important, then visit them to assess biological, chemical and physical conditions. They conduct a series of water analysis tests that show the correlation between water and other spheres. They learn about some plant and animal species found in wetlands, and make conclusions about the food web and energy flow through this ecosystem. The data students collect will become part of an ongoing monitoring project at Flanders. NGSS Performance Expectations: 5-ESS2-1, 5-LS2-1

Questions
For questions regarding curriculum: contact Eileen Reed at 203.233.9745 or eileen@flandersnaturecenter.org

Register
To register for a program: call Amber McDonald, Educator/Administrator 203.263.3711, Ext. 12

Farm & Nature Spring Field Trips
We have a variety of environmental education programs and immersive field trips for students in preschool through grade 5. Our main campus, the Van Vleck Sanctuary, includes a historic barn with a variety of live farm animals, a maple sugar house, and an outdoor classroom. Our grounds provide a perfect spot for exploring the outdoors and for hands-on learning, with 200 acres of forests, ponds, farm fields, meadows, wetlands, and streams—all of which support a diversity of wildlife.

Spring on the Farm Programs
ANIMAL LIFE CYCLES: Spring is the perfect time to visit the farm to learn about baby animals. Chicks are hatching, the sheep have new lambs and kid goats are sure to entertain your students as they learn about animal life cycles and products produced from farms.
PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS: Students will learn about the components of soil when planting a seed mix to benefit pollinators. Our biodegradable plant pots can be planted in the ground at home or at school for further science observations and research projects.
TECHNOLOGY THROUGH TIME: Visit the Antique Farm Tool museum to see tools created to make farm life easier. Our collection of over 500 different tools used for planting, harvesting, and animal care during the year. Your students will discover the difference between needs and wants for human survival as they explore tools from the past.
PLAY THE WEATHER GAME: Our weather game played outside in a big field lets kids run as they learn how weather plays an important role in farming success.
INSECT INVESTIGATION: The meadow is filled with a variety of insects and arachnids to catch, identify, and release. This field study offers hands-on learning as students discover life cycles and diversity in the insect world.
NATURES ENGINEERS: Our resident beavers build dams and lodges in their watery habitat.

Birds build nests and insects build hives. Learn how some animals change their environment and use natural materials to build with.

BEES & BUTTERFLIES: Our meadow has a variety of different plants that benefit insects. Discover milkweed and how important it is to Monarch butterflies. It is a host plant that feeds the caterpillar and a nectar plant that feeds both bees and butterflies. 75% of our food is pollinated by insects. Learn how humans can help bees and butterflies.

WATER CYCLE GAME: Water is always on the move! This fun and active game teaches about the water cycle in a lively way!

Life in the Pond Program
A short hike through the woods brings your students to the Botany Pond where they can catch, identify, and release amphibians, reptiles and insects. From eggs to legs students will learn about metamorphosis and the wonders of wildlife in the water. Wood frogs, spring peepers, green frogs, tree frogs, and toads are just a few of the many amphibians who lay eggs in the water at Flanders during spring. Your students will be amazed at the abundance of life they discover during your visit.

For More Information
Contact Amber McDonald, Educator/Administrator at 203.263.3711, Ext. 12 or amber@flandersnaturecenter.org

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

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

To achieve an optimal teacher to student ratio, classes will be broken into groups, depending on the number of students. Groups will rotate, so that students will have ample time to experience each fun-filled and exciting 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.
Workshops & Programs

Vacation Day Workshops

“OFF FROM SCHOOL” ADVENTURE DAYS AT FLANDERS
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:  
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY: Monday, 1/20
- FEBRUARY BREAK: Friday, 2/14, Monday 2/17, Tuesday 2/18
- TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY: Friday, March 6
- APRIL BREAK: Friday 4/10, Monday 4/13–Friday 4/17

TIME:  
- 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
- 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
- or
- 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

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

COST:  
- HALF DAY: $30/members and $40/nonmembers
- FULL DAY: $60/members and $80/nonmembers
- BEFORE AND AFTER CARE: $8/hour

Program Details

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY: FLANDERS ADVENTURE DAY
» Spend the day discovering the many ways animals adapt to winter
» Dress for the weather because we will be taking a hike to find tracks to see who is active in the snow. Who will we find!?

FEBRUARY BREAK: AMAZING ANIMAL ADVENTURE DAYS
» Spend time discovering the wonderful world of animals.
» Hike the trails and learn how to track animals active in winter.
» Visit the animals that make their home at Flanders’ North Barn and learn new facts about farmyard animals.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY: MAPLE FUN
» Children will learn where maple syrup comes from and see how sap is collected from trees and cooked in a working sugar house.
» Learn how Native Americans and early settlers made maple products.
» Discover maple math and finish with a taste of the final sweet product.

APRIL BREAK: SPRING IS IN THE AIR AT FLANDERS!
» Each day will bring a different learning adventure.
» Children will get a chance to hike the trails, observe wildlife, explore pond life and discover baby animals at the farm.
» Choose a single day or sign up for the whole week.

For More Information
For more information or to register, please call the Flanders office at 203.263.3711, extension 12.

“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.

For More Information
For more detailed information about this exciting option, please contact the Flanders office at 203.263.3711, Ext 12.
Summer Camp 2020

Keep an eye out for Flanders popular summer camp series where children can explore nature, art, agriculture and ecology in a fun, healthy and stimulating outdoor environment. From farming fun to outdoor explorations, art adventures or creative cooking, Flanders’ summer camp will run from June 15 through the end of August and offers more than 60 programs to keep children ages 3 to 13 entertained.

The programs run throughout the summer at the Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary, 5 Church Hill Road in Woodbury. Morning and afternoon programs can be combined to provide a full-day, outdoor experience. There is an “all day” discount, and available extended afternoon as well as morning care. Programs are led by Flanders’ staff of experienced educators and naturalists on Flanders' 200-acre campus of forest, field, farm and pond.

Discounts are offered for full day registration, and for registering before June 1st. A further discount is applied for those families who are, or become Flanders’ members at the time of registration. Registration continues, depending on availability, all summer long but we encourage early registration to ensure getting your top choice!

Birthday Parties at Flanders!

We offer birthday parties on Saturdays or Sundays year round! Affordable and fun there are a variety of nature themed parties 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 at 203.263.3711 ext. 12 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 Projects have been done at Flanders. Just let us know if you’re interested in completing your project here.

» Gold and Silver Award projects have been done at Flanders too! Let us know if you are interested in completing your hours here.

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

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, Flanders is the perfect place to obtain those SAE hours! We welcome students from the local area agricultural education programs to our Van Vleck Farm and Nature Sanctuary. 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! For more information, please contact our office at 203.263.3711.
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 Dinner & 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 2,300 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 lead 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—Organize art related programs and conserve founder Natalie Van Vleck’s history and archives.

» Land Management Committee—Managing Flanders 2,300+ acres of open space.

» Land Acquisition Committee—Acquiring important open space lands.

» Development/Fundraising Committee—Help with raising funds for supporting Flanders Mission.

» Historic Van Vleck Committee—Ensure 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 ana@flandersnaturecenter.org or by phone 203.263.3711 x10.

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. Call 203.263.3711 ext. 10 or email Program Coordinator, Ana Jordan, at ana@flandersnaturecenter.org.
Leaving a Legacy, Sustaining the Future

Without the generous support of its benefactors, Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust would not be able to continue its important mission of fostering understanding and appreciation of nature, art, and the wonders of the natural world through land preservation, stewardship and education.

To begin your legacy program, consider the following:

WHAT TYPE OF GIFT DO YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE?

» Securities
» Cash
» Tangible Personal or Real Property
» Life Insurance Beneficiary Designations
» Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designations

DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS with your attorney and/or financial advisor to determine which giving arrangements are best for your needs.

Membership Benefits & Opportunities

Flanders relies on dedicated members to fulfill its 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)
» Discount on classes, programs and specific events
» Discounts on summer camp
» Invitation to Annual Meeting and election privileges
» 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/

Donations

You can make a monetary donation to further the preservation and stewardship activities of Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust.

Every dollar you contribute will go to Flanders’ Open Space Acquisition or Stewardship Fund to maintain existing Land Trust properties and acquire new land. Make a tax-deductible gift today and help us support our commitment of preserving land and providing environmental education programs for all ages. With any first time donation of $65 or more you will automatically receive a one-year family membership.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY
flandersnaturecenter.org/donate/
Great Backyard Bird Count Hike at BENT OF THE RIVER AUDUBON CENTER: Friday, February 15, 9:00 AM–11:00 AM. During the GBBC, people from around the world count wild birds on the same weekend and then submit their data online for scientific research. We will meet at the Bent of the River and count birds while we hike. No registration needed. $5.00 donation requested. Please meet in the front parking lot at 8:50 AM: 185 East Flat Hill Road Southbury, CT

The BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST is hosting an Earth Day Hike on Saturday, April 25 at their Bellamy Ferriday Preserve. The hike will include a visit to the vernal pool to hopefully see frog eggs and salamander eggs in the pool. For further details about the hike, please visit www.bethlehemlandtrustct.org.

Woodbury Earth Day presented by the POMPERAUG RIVER WATERSHED COALITION will be here again before we know it! Please mark your calendars for Saturday May 2, 2020 from 11 AM to 4 PM at Hollow Park in Woodbury for the largest Earth Day celebration in Connecticut!

Did you know that the Ellis Clark Regional Agri-Science and Technology Program at NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL in corporation with the WOODBURY FFA offer Adult Education classes? Held March through June, they include fly fishing, floral arranging, small engine repair, and more! To learn more about their class offerings and to register visit www.woodburyffactreg14.org/adulteducation.

NestWatch: A Citizen Science Project
STEPP ROCK ASSOCIATION
2 Green Hill Road, Washington Depot
Training: March 27
      5:00 PM–6:00 PM
Take an in-depth look into the life of cavity nesting birds through a full season of monitoring bluebird and tree swallow boxes at Macricostas Preserve. Your research will document species occupation, breeding attempts, reproductive success, and pest invasion. Like our other citizen science projects, this data is analyzed for SRA knowledge and shared with national professionals.

Flanders congratulates the ROXBURY LAND TRUST, our partner in conservation, on their 50th Anniversary!

The SOUTHBURY LAND TRUST’s Phillips-Lovdal Farm Preserve provides 155 acres of open space. There are 4 trails covering 3.4 miles and leads visitors through forests and fields and along streams and stone walls. The entrance gate is located at 400 Sanford Road. There is a parking area and kiosk just inside the gate. The Southbury Land Trust welcomes you to come and enjoy this beautiful preserve!

Join WATERTOWN LAND TRUST on a 2-mile winter walk on Sunday, February 16 at 1:00 PM at its Schienda Preserve located on Hinman Road. Parking for the trail is located on the left, just a quarter mile past #199 Hinman Road. Leashed dogs are welcome. For more information, please call 860.274.4268.

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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.

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

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

PROCESSING FEE
There is a non-refundable $1 processing fee on all Programs.

CATALOG ERRORS
We try to insure 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.

For The Latest News & Happenings

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/flandersnaturecenter/

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/FlandersNatureCenter/

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/fncIt
Registration

Three Ways to Register

ONLINE

BY PHONE
Call 203.263.3711 ext. 12 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.

FLANDERS MISSION
To foster understanding and appreciation of nature, art and the wonders of the natural world through land preservation, stewardship and education.

FLANDERS VISION
To safeguard a future in which our scenic landscapes, forests, wetlands, agricultural lands and wildlife habitats are preserved forever, while being a leading center for environmental education for all ages, following best practices for land stewardship, and partnering with government, private organizations and the community to conserve our natural heritage.

Office Contact
Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust
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OFFICE ADDRESS: 596 Flanders Road
Woodbury, CT 06798

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FAX: 203.263.2214
EMAIL: flanders@flandersnaturecenter.org
WEB: www.flandersnaturecenter.org
OFFICE HOURS: 9AM–5PM (Monday–Friday)
Special Offer!
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