

Tap Into Nature



EVENTS

Intro to Archery for Kids at Lake Gaillard

September 8, 11 am – 1 pm

Children of RWA recreation permit holders aged 8-15 can get a basic introduction to archery and a chance to shoot a bow. Please enter by the gate at the end of North Street in North Branford and follow the signs. Equipment will be provided. Inclement weather cancels.



Plant ID at Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant

September 14, 10 am – 12 pm

Join Nicole Smith, the RWA's natural resources analyst and arborist, at the natural area in front of the Whitney Water Treatment Plant to learn to identify plants in a picturesque public park designed by Steven Holl. Get to know this beautiful hidden gem and learn a little about our native plants. Use 940 Whitney Ave. in Hamden for your GPS. After you turn into the driveway from Whitney Ave., take a right, follow the dirt road, and park at the Whitney Barn. Wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear. Inclement weather cancels.



Lake Gaillard Walk-a-Thon

September 22, 9 am – 1 pm

This 6.8-mile walk/run around Lake Gaillard is hosted by the RWA and the Northford-North Branford Women's Club as a fundraiser.

Start walking anytime between 9 and 11 am; all walkers must be off the trail by 1 pm. A shuttle bus will take walkers to the gate at Beech St. from the Atwater Library parking lot in North Branford. There is no parking at Lake Gaillard. Bikes and pets are not allowed. For more information, email VictoriaLanza2017@gmail.com



New Haven Bird Club Walk at Lake Chamberlain

October 15, 8 – 10:30 am *

Join the New Haven Bird Club for a fall bird walk to observe species wintering at Lake Chamberlain. Part of the walk will include the neighboring property with large fields. New birders are welcome. Wear appropriate footwear for hiking. Meet at the Lake Chamberlain parking lot on Sperry Road in Bethany.



Oak ID Walk at Lake Saltonstall

October 19, 10 am – 12 pm



Join Nicole Smith, the RWA's natural resources analyst and arborist at Lake Saltonstall, to learn how to identify our local oaks. Before walking, a brief overview of the tree parts used for oak identification will be provided. During the walk, we will focus on oak ID and learn about the importance of oaks to our ecosystems and the challenges our oaks face because of climate change. Wear appropriate footwear; we will go off-trail for part of the hike. Meet at the fishing shack via the main gate at the Saltonstall recreation area – 100 Hosley Ave. in Branford. Inclement weather cancels.

New Haven Bird Club Walk at Lake Dawson

November 2, 8 – 11 am *

We'll be looking for swallows, bluebirds and many other resident birds, as well as possible late migrants. This walk includes some mild slopes on a well-maintained road. Meet at the Lake Chamberlain parking lot on Sperry Road in Bethany. We will carpool to Lake Dawson from there.



* Please check the Bird Club website for potential event changes and updates. <https://www.newhavenbirdclub.org/calendar/>



! Please note that all events are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather. Please follow "Regional Water Authority Recreation" on Facebook for updates.



Please Leave Your Dogs at Home



Lock Gates Behind You



Recreation Areas Close at Sunset



Claire C. Bennitt
Recreation
Program
Regional Water Authority

Visit: rwater.com/recreation



Fall Garden Care for Pollinators

As the days get shorter and the temperatures head toward freezing, many people fall back on a routine of “putting their gardens to bed” — clearcutting all herbaceous material and blowing every loose leaf and twig out of the garden. While such perfection holds great appeal to the humans looking out into the garden from the warmth of their homes, pollinators view such a garden less favorably.

Pollinators need plants year-round. The succession of flowers throughout the seasons provides nectar; eggs are laid on host plants, ensuring reproductive survival, and plants and debris left in the garden are safe places for pollinators to overwinter. By planting various native flowering species and leaving them to stand in our winter gardens, we greatly add to the diversity and abundance of pollinators. Here are some good reasons to leave your garden in a natural state this winter.

- Mourning cloak butterflies find a snug piece of bark, crevice, or a dried leaf to nestle under until spring.
- Meadow fritillary and viceroy butterflies hibernate among the vegetation in seed pods, silken nests, and rolled-up leaves.
- Some bees hide away for the winter in the hollow or pithy stems of native perennials and grasses.
- Native ladybug beetle species only winter outside, under rocks, in hollow logs, and under leaves.



Do Mother Nature a favor and procrastinate on cleaning your flower beds until April. The pollinators we depend on will be well-rested after their stay in your garden and be ready to emerge and do their jobs again.

Excerpt from “Fall Garden Care for Pollinators,” Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University, July 26, 2023, <https://extension.psu.edu/fall-garden-care-for-pollinators>



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