



## **NEWS RELEASE**

March 12, 2010

For further information, call: Amber Grabowski, 203-263-3711, x 10

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

### **“ENCHANTING THE FOREST” AT BETHLEHM LIBRARY**

#### **“Woodland Creatures” Craft Workshop given by Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust**

(Woodbury, CT)--- Woodland sprites, nymphs, fairies, wildlife and other inhabitants of the forest, imagined or real, will take shape at the hands of those enrolled in the “Enchanting the Forest” craft workshop, given by Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust at the Bethlehem Library on March 24.

Participants will learn how to create “Woodland Creatures” made with natural materials they’ve collected and brought with them to the session, such as pine cones, acorn caps, sticks, bark, stones, milk weed pods, seeds, feathers, wool and more. After constructing a creature of their choosing, each student is encouraged to leave one in a place outdoors for children to find and keep, and write a creative note for the finder, including the creature’s name and story.

Crafters may also wish to enter their work in the “Forest Fairy Event and Woodland Creature Art Show” to be held in the spring at the Bellamy-Ferriday House in Bethlehem, Connecticut. Details of that event will be announced at a later date.

The “Woodland Creatures” craft program designed for adults will meet on Thursday, March 24, 2010 from 7 to 9 PM at the library. Admission is free to the workshop.

Dianne Parmelee, Education Co-coordinator for Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, the Workshop Director and Instructor, emphasized that the workshop is a perfect family activity, since “lifelong connections with nature begin at an early age. By ‘enchancing’ our forests and open spaces, we hope to make hiking in the woods for children and families exciting and create positive memories of time outside.” She encourages everyone to “let their creativity go wild” but notes that the first rule, when collecting natural materials, particularly in open space, is not to clip or cut growing plants, except invasive species.

“We call those plants ‘bullies’ when talking to young children. Plants such as autumn olive, multi-flora rose, bittersweet and others compete with native plants for resources and decrease species biodiversity. Once you learn how to identify them, we want you to cut them down,” Parmalee commented. If anyone has questions on how to identify invasive species, they may contact Flanders in Woodbury.

Flanders suggests that workshop participants look for natural materials in their own backyards or on one of the trails at Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust in Woodbury and The Whittemore Sanctuary in Middlebury, open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, at no charge. Trail maps are available at [www.flandersnaturecenter.org](http://www.flandersnaturecenter.org) or at the office at 5 Church Hill Road in Woodbury.

For more information on the workshops or to register, call the Bethlehem Library at 203-266-7792.



Examples of some of the natural creations that could be made.