



Upcoming Summer Programs



Saturday, June 20th 10am – 1pm The Natural History of Dragonflies This program series will look at the life cycle, habitat, behavior, and identification of dragonflies and damselflies by family, genus, and species. Naturalist Bob Bowker will lead the lectures and field trips which will provide hands-on experience with identification and behavioral study. This class is for adults only. Requisites will be the small, but excellent book "Beginner's Guide to Dragonflies" in the Stoke's series (\$9.00 and widely available), and a pair of binoculars. This is a three hour field trip. Meet at Hudson Road Entrance or Puffer Pond (appx. 1 mile walk) at the Assabet River NWR. Cosponsored between the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Friends of Assabet River NWR.

Wednesday, June 24th 7pm Peter Alden talking on *The Ups and Downs of our Birds* This will be a lively overview of how and why our local birds have responded to huge changes in our landscapes over the years. Peter Alden of Concord, is a past president of both the Brookline Bird Club and the Nuttall Ornithological Club, and a founder and current co-compiler of the Concord area Christmas Bird Count, the nation's largest. He has pioneered and led bird and nature tours to 100 countries. Peter is the author of 15 books with sales of 1.5 million so far (many available at the talk). In 1998 he created the world's first Biodiversity Day with E.O.Wilson, where 100+ invited experts found 1,905 fungi, flora and fauna in one day. The Walden Woods Project is sponsoring him to run the Walden Biodiversity Day II on July 4, 2009 to celebrate Ed's 80th. Our annual meeting will start at 7 PM followed by our guest speaker. The meeting will be held at the Great Meadows NWR Headquarters on 73 Weir Hill Road, Sudbury, MA.

Saturday, June 27th 1pm New Trail Opening at Oxbow NWR Please join the Service, Friends of the Oxbow NWR, and members of the Shirley Conservation Commission on a guided tour of the new Esker Loop trail. This scenic trail winds parallel to the Nashua River and atop an esker, a natural ridge created millenia ago by the glaciers. We will look for birds and other wildlife that occupy a variety of habitats in the area including forest, vernal pools, and the river. This hike will introduce local residents and other interested parties to a new wildlife-dependent recreational resource now available in the area. Wear comfortable hiking boots and clothing appropriate for outdoor activity. Water and bug repellent recommended. **Be prepared for moderate hiking for approximately 2 hours.** No dogs allowed. Meet at Meet at the entrance to the refuge off Walker Road in Shirley, north of the RR tracks.

Saturday, June 27th 10am – noon Inspiring a Sense of Place - Plant Walk with Cherrie Corey These walks emphasize the plants and seasonal wonders of this diverse and historic wetland landscape. For participant information, email khadro06@gmail.com or call 978-760-1933. No pre-registration is required. A voluntary donation of \$5/person for the leader's time will be gratefully accepted. This year's walks will be sponsored by Musketaquid, the arts and Environment program of the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts in Concord. All walks will begin at the Great Meadows NWR parking lot. Take Rte. 62 in Concord, to Monsen Road, then turn left into the GMNWR driveway where Monsen Rd. curves to the right.

Sunday, July 12th 10am – 1pm The Natural History of Dragonflies (see description above) This is a three hour field trip. Meet at the Still River Depot Rd. parking area at Oxbow NWR.

Weds – Fri, July 22nd – 24th 9am – 4pm Nature Explorers! Summer Day Camp at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Join us for three days of nature exploration and an opportunity to connect your child with his or her local refuge. This is a pilot program the refuge will be hosting for 8 – 12 yr olds and is limited to 20 participants. Each day children will learn about the local habitats at the refuge and their role in conservation. A special 2-hour photography workshop conducted by local photographer Dave Griffin will be part of the programming. The fee for registration will be \$125 to cover supplies and the hiring of local teen counselors. Each registrant gets a complimentary one year family membership to the Friends. Please call to register. Cosponsored between the Friends of Assabet River NWR and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Sunday, July 26th 10am – noon Inspiring a Sense of Place - Plant Walk with Cherrie Corey (see description above)

For more information, please visit <http://www.farnwr.org>
or <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex>
You may also call us at 978-443-4661 x34

