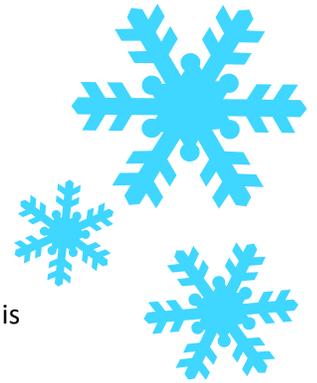


UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



ASSABET RIVER NWR

Visitor Center at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA.

Kids Explorative Hike: Sunday, January 22nd at 1pm Will there be snow on the ground? How does snow form? What kinds of creatures can we find? What signs of life will there be? There is always something cool to learn! Dress for the weather. Please meet inside the Visitor Center.

The Natural and Unnatural History of the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers: Wednesday, January 25th at 7pm

Dave Griffin tells the story of the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers that for the most part, flow silently through our towns. Beginning with the glaciers scouring the landscape through the taming and industrialization of the last 300 years, Dave will share this story with unique visualizations and a smattering of photography. The meeting will start with a short business meeting and refuge update and conclude with the featured speaker. (Inside the Visitor Center)

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, January 27th at 10:30 am This month, we will be launching our nature hour with a program on beavers. We will learn about beaver's behavior, where they live, and what they eat. If weather permits, we will take a short walk to see some wild signs of beavers on the refuge! So please bring appropriate outerwear. **Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for 2 to 5 year olds; siblings welcome.**

Tours of the Visitor Center, every Saturday at 11am & Sunday at 2pm – starting Saturday, Feb 4th Take a guided tour of the building and exhibits and learn about our programs. Bring a friend or family that might never have been to the refuge or inside the visitor center.

Weekend Lunch at the Refuge: First Three Saturdays and Sundays in February at Noon Learn about the National Wildlife Refuge through watching "America's Wildest Places" series, in which a video tour of different refuges around the nation are shown. You can stay for the whole showing or come in and watch a few clips. Hot beverages will be provided. To find what refuges will be shown, check our website for more information. The series will begin – Saturday, Feb 4th. (Will not be held on Feb 25th and 26th).

Saturday Summit: Saturday, February 11th at 1-4pm The Friends of Assabet River NWR are planning a "Saturday Summit" to gather and to chart a vision for our role at the refuge. Please bring a friend and join us for some much needed discussion about the future of our organization and be a part of that future.

Identifying Trees in Winter: Tuesday, February 21st and Wednesday, February 22nd at 11am-12pm Using the skills of observation and bark identification we will explore the trees of the refuge and identify the common and not so common species found at the refuge.

Seeds in Winter: Tuesday, February 21st and Wednesday, February 22nd at 1-2pm We will search out evidence of this past year's crop of seeds from the plants on the refuge.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: Thursday, February 23rd at 11am-1pm Come join refuge staff as we thank our volunteers and welcome in new volunteers. Light refreshments will be served – both old and new volunteers are welcome!

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, February 24th at 10:30 am Nature themed program series that will include crafts, stories, and games or songs that will relate to a different topic each month. **Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for 2 to 5 year olds; siblings welcome.**

(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE PROGRAMMING INFORMATION)

Kids crafts and activities: Friday, February 24th at 12-4pm Our multipurpose room will be transformed into a fun, activity-filled room to help kids learn about hibernation and the refuge. Bring your kids in to come and learn something new from refuge staff and volunteers.

Legislative Evening led by State Senator Jamie Eldridge: Wednesday, February 29th at 7pm Join us on leap day for a discussion with State Senator Eldridge of issues that concern the Assabet River NWR and neighboring open spaces. Of special concern is the act relative to land taking regulations (SB 1854), to be heard by the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture on July 21st. This legislation would severely impact the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, one of the most important and effective environmental laws in the state. If you are a FARNWR member, an abutter of the Refuge, live in the local community, or interested in other NWRs in the area and have a question or a shared issue please bring them to the forum. (Inside the Visitor Center)

OXBOW NWR

For questions about programs, contact Rona Balco, President of Friends of Oxbow NWR, 978-779-2259
Entrance: Still River Depot parking lot (at end of Depot Road in Harvard, MA)

Rachel Carson Presentation: Thursday, January 26th at 7pm A presentation on this important scientist will be hosted by the Library in Shirley, 3 Keady Way, Shirley, MA. The program is geared toward adults and adolescents. Please call Rona at 978.779.2259 for confirmation.

Snowshoeing/cross country skiing: Sunday, February 5th at 1pm Join Naturalist Rona Balco on a hike of the refuge to see what signs there are of winter or how this year's weather has affected the natural landscape. If conditions are not favorable for snowshoes and cross country then a nature hike will happen instead. Hot cocoa and cookies provided after. RSVP with Rona to let her know you are planning to attend.

Birds of Prey: date and time tba This will be a fascinating program featuring live birds. Date and place (Ayer, Shirley or Devens) to be announced once we have found a suitable location. Contact Rona for more information.

Live Wolves - presentation by local wolf expert. Our speaker, who also takes care of wolves, will bring one or more live specimens. Adults and children are welcome. Young people through grade 8 will need to be accompanied by an adult. The program will take place in Ayer/Shirley area; date and location to be announced later. Reservations are recommended, since we expect a large turn-out: 978 779-2259.

GREAT MEADOWS NWR

Concord Impoundments on Monsen Road, off Rte. 62 in Concord, MA

Nature Walk: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Sunday, February 12th from 3-5pm This winter has been empty of snow but full of surprises. The open water pools and large numbers of over-wintering coot have attracted daily visits from a bald eagle and rarely seen raptors. Whether it's wildlife encounters or snow and ice fascinations, we'll reset our seasonal clock with a last wintery walk before heading into spring. Our foray will finish with a long gaze toward the setting sun. Bundle up, wear appropriate footgear, and grab those hand and toe warmer packets. *No pre-registration required. A \$5/person voluntary donation will be gratefully accepted.* Led by Cherrie Corey, local naturalist and photographer; *Co-sponsored by Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program and Friends of Assabet River NWR.* For questions, email cherrie.corey@verizon.net or call 978-760-1933
<http://sense-of-place-concord.blogspot.com/>

REMINDER: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE REFUGES

Contact Us:

680 Hudson Road Sudbury, MA 01776 978-562-3527

Facebook: Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge and Twitter.com/assabetrivernwr

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/easternmanwrcomplex>

Friends of Assabet River: <http://www.farnwr.org/>

Friends of Oxbow: <http://www.friendsoftheoxbownwr.org/>

