

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



## ASSABET RIVER NWR

Visitor Center at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA. For question about programs or to register contact Kizette at [kizette\\_ortizvanger@fws.gov](mailto:kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov) or 978-562-3527 x. 117

**Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** Programs will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for 2 to 5 year olds; siblings welcome. December's program will be themed on "Snow – what animals do in the snow, and the science behind a snowflake." It will include a craft and a venture outside.

**FARNWR Winter Solstice Avian Survey: Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am-10am** This time of year when the days reach their shortest is traditionally when birds in our area are counted. In the spirit of this effort we will be doing an informal survey of birds found in the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. Bird ID skills helpful, but not necessary. Please bring binoculars and a bird ID guide and remember to dress warm. Meet at the visitor center. Contact John to **RSVP** by 3pm on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup> by email at [jmilhaven@gmail.com](mailto:jmilhaven@gmail.com) or call 978-201-6028; limited to 15 participants. Beginners welcome.

**Training for Naturalist Educators with Stephen DeFlorio– Four Saturdays, Four Seasons, Four Themes: January 12<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am-3pm** You will get a solid training at being a Naturalist Guide. This hands-on training program is suitable for teachers and adults working with children and will give you: Skills and methods to teach outdoor natural history to children 4- 12 years of age; Cover four seasonal topics with a different theme loaded with materials and ideas; Will give you further opportunities to design and conduct programs at the Assabet River NWR to add to your current experience. **Instructor:** Stephen DeFlorio is a veteran educator and naturalist with over 14 years of experience as an Education Coordinator for MassAudubon and now a Teacher /Naturalist at Apple Valley Montessori School. **Fee:** \$35 per person per class, \$120 if you register for all four (Friends of Assabet River NWR Members: \$25 per person per class, \$90 if you register for all 4 sessions). To register and to get more information on the schedule contact Kizette.

**Family Nature Club: Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1-2pm** Bring your kids and come jump into nature with us as a family! We are starting a family nature club for kids in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades (siblings are welcome). Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month we will get together and explore the outdoors for an hour of fun discovery! This month we will go for a hike around the visitor center while making hibernating buddies that we will then prepare for their hibernation. Appropriate clothes and footwear required – ie things you are okay with getting dirty! Registration is required; please contact Kizette to RSVP by Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**FARNWR January Presentation - Dealing with Invasive Plant Species in New England with Douglas Cygan: Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm** You've seen them –along roadsides, bordering streams and wetlands, and even in your own back yard. Many non-native invasive plant species are pretty, grow easily and spread rapidly. They are pervasive throughout New England - and that's the problem. Invasive species overwhelm and crowd out native plants, reduce wildlife habitat, impact water quality, and decrease diversity in natural plant communities. Learn how to identify invasive species in your neighborhood, understand how they got there and how they impact our environment, and learn how to control their spread. Douglas Cygan has been the Invasive Species Coordinator for the NH Department of Agriculture for the past 10-years as well as being a nursery inspector and an Authorized Certification Official for the USDA. Friends of the Assabet River NWR hold its monthly members meeting every fourth Wednesday of the month. Talks are free and open to the public. A short business meeting will take place before the presentation. For more information about our programs, membership and the Refuge please visit [farnwr.org](http://farnwr.org)

**Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** 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 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for 2 to 5 year olds; siblings welcome.

**PUDDLESTOMPERS Nature Exploration – February 2013 Drop-Off Vacation Program: Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am-1pm** Let us lead your children in discovering the beauty and wonder of late winter and early spring during PUDDLESTOMPERS February Vacation Week Drop-Off Program. Activity will be based at Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge in Sudbury where we will venture outside along the adjacent trails as much as temperature and weather allow. Learn about how animals survive the winter and why evergreens keep their leaves. Look for animal tracks and other signs of winter activity. Investigate the reappearance of animals and the new growth of plants as Mother Nature promises warmer weather in the months ahead. We will learn about the day's topic through hands-on exploration, active movement and play, crafts, stories, and songs with our integrated curriculum. A snack will be provided each day, as well as a take-home craft and handout with additional activities and information to extend learning and nature discovery into your home. Bring a nut-free lunch. Min. 4 children/Max. 20 children. **Dates:** Sign up for 1, 2, 3 or all 4 days! Tuesday 2/19, Wednesday 2/20, Thursday 2/21, Friday 2/22 Ages: 3-6 year olds, drop-off **Cost:** \$60/day/child; Friends of Assabet River receive 10% discount

**(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE PROGRAMMING INFORMATION)**

**OXBOW NWR** Entrance: Still River Depot Road parking lot (at end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard, MA)  
For questions about programs, contact Rona Balco, President of Friends of Oxbow NWR, 978-779-2259 or Ada at [ada@friendsoftheoxbow.org](mailto:ada@friendsoftheoxbow.org).

**Annual New Year's Day Hike: Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon** Walk off some of the extra calories accumulated during the holidays and hike or snowshoe the newly groomed and enlarged trail to the old and hidden boathouse (remnants) on the Nashua River and learn some of its history while meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Starting point: the parking lot at the new contact station/education center on Hospital Road in Devens just east of the Nashua River.

**Whose Tracks Are These?: Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** How can you spot animals in winter? Come join us at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge to find out. Trackers are experts at reading all kinds of signs. They will give you the chance to become an animal detective. Looking at clues in the snow or mud, on trunks or branches, we analyze what we see and make the most educated guess, taking into account the habitat and location as well. Clues include tracks, scat, hair, broken or gnawed branches and other telling facts. Your nose is important too. Starting Point: the parking lot at the main entrance to the refuge at the end of Still River Depot Road, Harvard, MA. Dress warmly; we will be walking slowly. Bring a drink and wear waterproof boots. Children are welcome. For further information plus reservation, please contact Rona or Ada. Sponsored by The Friends of the Oxbow NWR.

**Snowshoe or Cross Country Skiing Tour: Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** Come and enjoy a few hours of snowshoeing or cross country skiing in the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. There will be a guided tour of the area near the new pavilion in Devens. The terrain is relatively level. Depending on the snow cover, we will see various animal tracks. It is also the time of year that barred owls are hooting to attract a mate. Gather in the parking lot off Hospital Road just east of the Nashua River. Bring water to drink. Hot cocoa and cookies will be waiting for us in the building when we return. In case of lack of a good snow cover, we'll hike. Families are welcome. The event is free of charge, but donations are appreciated. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oxbow N.W.R. ([friendsoftheoxbownwr.org](http://friendsoftheoxbownwr.org)) For more information and to let us know of your intention to participate, call Rona or email Ada.

**Oxbow Winter Nature Photo Contest** To take part in the Photo Contest the photos should be taken at the Oxbow Refuge during **this winter**. Enter one of the following levels: [1] Amateur (18 years old and up with camera experience); [2] Professional; [3] Youth (13 to 17 years old); [4] Children (younger than 17). You may enter up to three nature photos, each one in a different category. Choose from the following Categories: (1) invertebrate animals; (2) vertebrate animals; (3) plants; (4) landscape or scenic; (5) abstract; (6) people enjoying nature and (7) black & white. Only minor adjustments to photos will be accepted. No alterations beyond standard optimization. E-mail your contact information and level + categories and photos by **March 30, 2013** to Dr. Richard Brown at [DrRichardDBrown@aol.com](mailto:DrRichardDBrown@aol.com)

**GREAT MEADOWS NWR** Concord Impoundments on Monsen Road, off Rte. 62 in Concord, MA

**Exploring Concord's Winter Wonderlands: Environmental Learning Program for Homeschoolers (Concord): On Fridays, January 11<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup> (Fairyland, Concord's Town Forest)** Homeschoolers, ages 8-14, are invited to join naturalist Cherrie Corey for a series of adventures exploring the mysteries and wonder of a Concord winter at Great Meadows NWR and in Fairyland, in the Concord Town Forest. In this three-part monthly program, students will learn to form an attentive and personal connection with wild and frozen landscapes, explore the seasonal cycles of ice in its beautiful and varied forms, and follow the tracks and signs of wildlife into the larger stories of their life in Concord's wildlands. We'll look for some of Thoreau's winter magic, visit a famous spring as the weather warms, and pay homage to one of Concord's largest and oldest trees. **Fee:** \$80/child for all three sessions. Limited to 10 (ages 8-14). *Please make checks or money orders payable to Cherrie Corey and send to her at 277 Old Bedford Road, Concord, MA 01742 by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Early registration is encouraged and will be confirmed when payment is received. If you have any questions, please email Cherrie at [cherrie.corey@verizon.net](mailto:cherrie.corey@verizon.net) or call at 978-369-4289 (leave a message in VM box #1).*

**Monthly Winter Nature Walks: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30-4:30pm** Winter is the season when earth and sky merge in a shared palette of color, shadow, and reflections. It is a time when land and waterscapes yield equally for our exploration. Ice and snow give way to myriad forms and ephemeral worlds that reveal themselves only in these silent, frozen months of the year. Join me for walks of winter revelation over these next three months. Dress warmly, head to toe! *No pre-registration required. A \$5/person voluntary donation will be gratefully accepted.* Led by Cherrie Corey, local naturalist and photographer; Co-sponsored by Musketavid Arts and Environment Program and FARNWR. For questions, email [cherrie.corey@verizon.net](mailto: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/assabrivernwr

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

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

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

