

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 or 978-562-3527 x. 117

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, May 25th at 10:30am May's bat activities will include information about bats and how the FWS is trying to help with bunkers, a story about Bats, an art activity or game and a hike to see a bunker (if weather permits). Please bring appropriate clothing. Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for **2 to 5 year olds**; siblings welcome.

History of Puffer Pond: Sunday, May 27th at 1-3pm Join Maynard Historian Paul Boothroyd for a historical history walk of Puffer (Pratt) Pond. What do you know about arrowhead estate? Only **25 spots** are available, to register please contact Kizette. Rain date will be scheduled.

Two Years and Counting: Scenes from the BP Gulf Oil Spill: Wednesday, May 30th at 7pm Have you wondered about the long-term repercussions of the Gulf Oil Disaster? Wildlife photographer Shawn Carey will share firsthand accounts, images and video from visits to the Louisiana Coast where he documented the effects of the oil spill on the gulf region and its wildlife. He will discuss the effects of the nation's largest environmental disaster and the risks facing the huge numbers of migrating birds heading to the Gulf region. Shawn creates presentations on bird/wildlife related topics for live audiences all over the US. A short business meeting and refuge updates will take place before the presentation. Check his website migrationproductions.com

Plant Walk: Saturday, June 2nd at 10am Join Invasive species biologist Amber Carr for a tour of some of the plant life found at the refuge. The walk will take a look at mostly invasive plants as well as some natives found in the area which we can identify using Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Meet at the visitor center. Only **25 spots** are available, to register please contact Amber Carr (978) 443-4661 ext. 33 or Amber_Carr@fws.gov

Legislative Forum led by State Senator Jamie Eldridge: Wednesday, June 13th at 7pm The Senator will lead a discussion of topics of special interest to Friends' members and residents of the local communities. Of particular interest is *An Act Relative to Land Takings (Senate Bill 1854)* in the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. This legislation could severely impact the Mass. Endangered Species Act. Co-sponsored with FARNWR.

Assabet Youth Stewards Interest Meeting: Thursday, June 14th at 7pm Come learn about and DO the job of a refuge ranger! This is a new summer youth volunteer program in which groups will be formed around a refuge project. There will be meetings and field trips throughout the summer (tentatively Friday afternoons). Ages 12-29. If interested, contact Kizette.

Kids Fishy Activities for Riverfest: Sunday, June 24th at 10-2pm Join refuge staff for a variety of fun, educational programs designed for children in kindergarten – 3rd grade. Learn about the wetlands in Wetland in a Pan, create your own species of fish in Fashion a Fish, and learn about riparian zones where the land meets the river in Project Wild.

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, June 22nd 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 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for **2 to 5 year olds**; siblings welcome.

Sy Montgomery Talk on Forays in to Birdology [was rescheduled from May]: Wednesday, June 27th at 7pm Birds are the wild animals we see every day, yet too often, we take them for granted. In this talk, illustrated with striking images, you'll meet some of the birds that rekindle our awe. Author Sy Montgomery relates her encounter with the most dangerous bird on Earth--the 150-pound, 5 foot-tall Southern Cassowary--illustrating the surprising fact that birds are living dinosaurs. Sy shares the story of her work with a bird rehabilitator, rescuing jewel-like orphaned baby hummingbirds to show us that birds are made of air. Birds' bones are hollow, their bodies full of air sacs, and their feathers (which outweigh their skeleton) little more than air wrapped in light--yet birds' very fragility gives them the power to conquer the skies. Friends' Monthly meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Visitor Center. A short business meeting and refuge updates will take place before the presentation.

An Art in Nature Teen Workshop: Watercolor on the Loose: Fridays July 6th, July 13th, July 20th, July 27th at 10-12pm Have you ever observed the details and color variation of a waterfowl feather? Come and enjoy individual hands-on instruction with Cecilia Sharma, a museum school instructor and award-winning designer and artist. The refuge is a great spot for the painter's eye to observe like a naturalist. Through a series of "fun" painting exercises, students will learn layering of paint, developing textures, shapes and creating the illusion of light. Students will paint face to face with their natural subject through samplings in nature, animal skulls, pelts and taxidermy. The workshop will include painting demonstrations that will teach them to experience their own unique style of painting. Ages 14-16. Fee: \$175. Cecilia Sharma is currently teaching at the Wayland Art Center and The Sudbury Valley Trustees. She inspires, motivates and teaches

(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE PROGRAMMING INFORMATION)

the fundamental principles of painting and allows students to develop their own personal style. Co-sponsored with FARNWR. To register contact Kizette.

OXBOW NWR Entrance: Still River Depot parking lot (at end of Depot Road in Harvard, MA)

For questions about programs, contact Rona Balco, President of Friends of Oxbow NWR, 978-779-2259 or Ada at awoolston1@yahoo.com Programs sponsored by the Friends of the Oxbow NWR.

Art on the Refuge: Saturday, June 2nd at 1-3pm Our instructor Rona Balco, an accomplished artist and naturalist, will take you to some of her favorite spots on the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge where you can sketch and/or paint from nature. Bring your own supplies, including some water if you want to use watercolors, and maybe a seat. We suggest you wear long pants and bring some insect repellent and a drink. Beginners and children age 11 and up are welcome. Meet at Still River Depot parking lot.

On the Trails of Edible Weeds: Sunday, June 10th at 2pm Our leader, Gene Christoph, has been collecting “these weeds that are more nutritious than store-bought vegetables” for many years. He will teach you how to recognize them, explain which parts are edible and where to look for them. He will provide some culinary tips as well. Meet at the College Church parking lot, 337 Main Street in **Lancaster**, MA. Bring a bag, drink and wear comfortable walking shoes. Parents are welcome to bring their children (Age 10+). To sign up contact Rona.

Volunteers needed for Trail Clearing at new Hospital Rd site in Devens: Sunday June 3rd, Monday June 4th, Monday June 11th at 9am
Come and help us get some refuge trails in tip-top shape. This will also include removal of invasive plants and bushes. Bring sturdy tools, water and bug spray. For directions and final arrangements, contact Rona at 978-779-2259.

Looking Through a Magnifying Glass: Sunday, June 24th at 1-3pm This program is for kids (ages 9-12) and parents. Bring your own magnifying glass/bug jar or use one of ours. What do things look like when viewed through a lens? What is there in, on and above the soil? Be prepared to spend some time with your nose almost on the ground. Our guide Ada Woolston, an elementary Montessori teacher by profession, has always liked to share her love for and knowledge of nature with children. Bring water and insect repellent. Wear appropriate clothing and walking shoes. Meet in parking lot at the end of Still River Depot Road. To sign up contact Ada at 978-618-7703.

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

Sudbury address: 73 Weir Hill Road

Nature Walk: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Saturday, June 16th at 9:30-11:30am As the summer solstice approaches, join us for a walk through the splendor of green leaves, soft blossoms, the buzz and hum of busy insects, and warm breezes that fill the refuge. Life of every variety will be evident along the trail and the sweet scent of swamp azaleas will perfume the air. Bring your sunscreen, cameras, and binoculars – if you have them. *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 FARNWR.* For questions, email cherrie.corey@verizon.net or call 978-760-1933 <http://sense-of-place-concord.blogspot.com/>

Riverfest: Family Fishing Event at Great Meadows NWR (Sudbury): Saturday, June 23rd at 10-2pm Calling all anglers: Beginners and experienced. Join refuge staff and MassWildlife’s Angler Expert – Jim Lagacy for a day filled with fishy fun! Learn how to fly-cast, spin-cast, and even tie your own fly. All equipment will be provided. Join in games, crafts, and face painting, or go for a hike on the Weir Hill and Red Maple Trails to discover the variety of riverine habitats on the refuge. Massaudubon’s naturalist will bring an upclose look at an animal. For more information call 978-443-4661 x34.

Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers - Riverfest 1st Annual Water Chestnut Pullathon (3 locations): Sunday, June 24th at 9:00am-12pm

Sponsored by the SUASCO CISMA. Enjoy free pizza and friendly competition while hand pulling water chestnut, an invasive aquatic plant, from several locations along the rivers, including Acton, Sudbury, Wayland, and Billerica. All volunteers age 14+ are welcome; this is also a great hands-on opportunity for high school students who are interested in the environment and need community service hours. We have limited canoes, so please let us know if you will be bringing your own boats. We recommend bringing water, bug spray, sun block, work gloves and water shoes - be prepared to get messy! Contact Katrina Scheiner at (978) 443-4661 ext 16 or katrina_scheiner@nps.gov for more info and to sign up. Please sign up as soon as possible or by Friday, June 22 at the latest!

REMINDER: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE REFUGES



Contact Us:

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

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

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

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

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