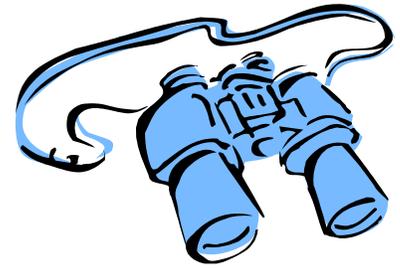


UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



ASSABET RIVER NWR

Visitor Center at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA.

Birding and Interpretive Walk with David Lange at Assabet River NWR: Sunday, April 22nd & Sunday, April 29th at 7am

Join the Friends of Assabet River NWR for a birding and interpretive walk. Be prepared to walk! Meeting place: Visitor's center parking lot at Assabet River NWR. Co-sponsored with Brookline Bird Club <http://www.brooklinebirdclub.org/>

Morning Spring Walk: Every Thursday in May at 10:15am-Noon Explore the different habitats on the refuge as we search for evidence of amphibian activity & emergent plants in the forest areas. We'll seek out returning bird species and the numerous insects, etc. that become active at this time. All ages are welcome. Please wear appropriate clothing to be on hiking trails. Inclement weather rain date will be Friday if there are no prior scheduled events. Please call the visitor center for verification.

Wayne R. Petersen Talk on Travelers in the Sky: Appreciating spring bird migration: Tuesday, May 8th at 7pm Every year at this season literally millions of feathered travelers are making their way northward to breeding grounds that span the continent and extend from the fields, forests and shorelines of New England to the boreal forests and remote tundra regions of Arctic Canada. Learn basic information about how and when birds accomplish their migrations, where they're coming from, what their destinations are at this time of year, and something about the conservation challenges increasingly facing many migratory bird populations. There will also be suggestions on how and where to appreciate and intercept spring bird migration at its best. Wayne R. Petersen is Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Assabet River NWR.

Family Bird Walk on International Migratory Bird Day: Saturday, May 12th at 8:30am Join local birder, Laura Lane for a beginner bird walk on the Assabet River NWR. Come learn the basics and open your ears and eyes to see what birds we will find. Only **20 spots** are available, to register please contact Kizette at kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov or 978-562-3527 x. 117. Please bring binoculars and a bird guide if you have them. Dress for the weather and meet at the visitor center.

Spring Historical Bus Tour: Sunday, May 20th at Noon Join Maynard Historian Paul Boothroyd for our popular bus tour of the historical sites of the Assabet River NWR. Visit sites dating back to Native Americans, Washington and the War of Independence, and World War II for many entertaining stories and anecdotes. Tickets at \$9.00 per person in advance only. Reserve your space early by calling Paul Boothroyd at (978) 835-4515. *Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Assabet River NWR.*

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, May 25th 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.

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 at kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov or 978-562-3527 x. 117. Rain date will be scheduled.

Mass Audubon Summer Day Camp at Assabet River NWR – Sign up now!
http://www.massaudubon.org/Nature_Connection/Sanctuaries/Drumlin_Farm/camp.php

Sy Montgomery Talk on Forays in to Birdology: Wednesday, May 30th 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.

(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE PROGRAMMING INFORMATION)

Save the date! Plant Walk June 2nd at 10am Join invasive biologist, Amber Carr for a tour of the plant life found at refuge. Registration required.

OXBOW NWR

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

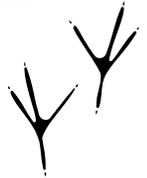
For questions about programs, contact Rona Balco, President of Friends of Oxbow NWR, 978-779-2259 or Ada at awoolston1@yahoo.com

Nature Photography on Sunday, May 6 Time TBD - *Bring your camera* and explore the south-side of the Oxbow under the guidance of photographer Peter Christoph. Peter is an experienced wildlife and landscape photographer and is quite familiar with the refuge. To find out about the time and to pre-register, phone Rona at 978-779-2259. Meet in parking lot at the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard.

Thursday, May 10th at 7:00pm – You're welcome to attend the somewhat informal board meetings of the Friends of the Oxbow NWR. This is a good way to find out what the goal is of a Refuge Friends group, what the opportunities are for volunteers. Share your experiences at the Oxbow, your areas of expertise and your ideas. Contact Rona Balco at 978-779-2259.

Learn to Whistle like a Bird on Saturday, May 12th at 7:00pm This popular workshop is given by Dr. Richard Brown, who, while a student at Ohio State University, made recordings of various bird songs. From this work, he developed a method of teaching now used by many. For the location, check our website at www.friendsoftheoxbownwr.org. This will be a fun program for kids. Beginners welcome!

Birding at Oxbow NWR on Saturday, May 19th at 7:00 am Come look for breeding populations of migratory birds and learn about the local birds found at the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. Naturalists Dick and Peggy Knowlton will lead the hike. During our walks last year, 38 different species of birds were observed! Bring your binoculars and water, and be prepared for some biting insects. Birders of all levels are welcome. Please, pre-register at 978-779-2259. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard.



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

EBirding Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Thursdays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 7:30am-9:30am Learn how to use Ebird tools such as Migration Forecasts, Probability Bar Charts and Site Specific Checklists to improve your birding skills. Or just enjoy the birds. Meet in the Great Meadows main parking lot, Monsen Rd. (off rt. 62). Latecomers can catch up by heading out on the cross-dike trail. Contact: Alan Bragg alan.ruth.bragg@gmail.com

Nature Walk: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Saturday, May 19th at 9:30am-11:30am Concord's floral pageantry begins in earnest this month and the refuge comes alive with delicate leaves, fresh colors, and vibrant sounds. Come delight in rare spring violets, duckling flotillas, basking snakes and turtles, and a chorus of spring birds. Bring your sunscreen, cameras, and binoculars – if you have them. Held at Concord Impoundments on Monsen Road, off Rte. 62 in Concord, MA. *No pre-registration required. A \$5/person voluntary donation will be gratefully accepted.* Led by Cherrie Corey, local naturalist and photographer; *Co-sponsored by Musketquid 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/>

Turtle Walk with Bryan Windmiller at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Sunday, May 20th at 10:30am-noon Our 5th annual turtle trek! Explore with Bryan Windmiller and The Nature Connection again this spring as we look for live turtles and enjoy the fascinating nature of Great Meadows. A gifted teacher and professional wildlife ecologist since 1987, Bryan's research includes human impact on vernal pool amphibians, and the conservation of Blanding's turtles. Walk is free. Meet at Great Meadows, end of Monsen Rd. off Rte. 62. Call (978) 369-2585 for further information.

**SAVE THE DATE – RIVERFEST WEEKEND OF JUNE 23rd & 24th – FISHING EVENT AT 73 Weir Hill Rd, Sudbury, MA
Saturday, June 23rd 10am -2pm**

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/>

