

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

Volunteers Needed! Visitor Survey Sampling Are you a people person and love being outside? We are trying to reach out to as many visitors that visit the refuge to implement a national USGS visitor survey. Volunteers will collect visitors' information during a 3-4 hour shift to find out what they do on the refuge. If you are interested in finding out more information please contact Kizette.

Sharing Nature with Children Training: Saturday, November 3rd at 9am-12pm Sharing Nature with Children will focus on how to get children fully engaged with nature. Volunteer Chris Stix will be sharing the four step flow learning process developed by Joseph Cornell, the author of the Sharing Nature with Children books. We'll spend about half an hour talking about the process and sharing a description of games and activities appropriate for third graders. Then we'll participate in several of the activities. For more information or to RSVP, contact Kizette by midnight on Wednesday, October 31st.



Informational Presentation by Sudbury Valley Trustees on the Desert Natural Area: Thursday, November 8th at 7-9:00 pm Learn about pitch pine-scrub oak habitats and about the specifics of the planned restoration project at the Desert Natural Area. Your comments and feedback are essential to the project's success.

Puddlestopper's Veteran's Day Kids Program: Monday, November 12th at 9am-1pm Pack a bag and come on a migration journey! Search the skies for migrating birds! Learn bird calls and touch feathers and bones! Roll over logs to dig for worms! PUDDLESTOPPERS Drop-Off Vacation Programs explore the wonders of nature in a fun, safe setting. The day includes hands-on activities, movement, art, stories, games and snack. A take home handout is provided each day to extend learning and discovery into the home. *A snack is provided; please bring a nut-free lunch. Children must be potty-trained to attend.* Open to Ages 3-6. Sponsored by Puddlestompers, to register visit www.puddlestompers.com or 617-527-2000. \$60/child; 10% Discount for Friends Members.

Birds Fly South for the Winter...Or do they?: Saturday, November 24th at 7:30am "Everyone" knows that birds fly south for the winter. Except for the ones that don't! In this session we will look at which birds leave our area during the cooler months, and which ones stick it out, and why. (Where do those Robins go, anyway?) Bring good binoculars, a bird identification book, and appropriate hiking or trail shoes. Contact John to **RSVP** by 3pm on Friday, November 23rd by email at jmilhaven@gmail.com or call 978-201-6028; limited to 15 participants.

FARNWR November Program - Active and Engaged: Conservation of Rare Species inside Route 495 in the Greater Boston Area presented by Bryan Windmiller, Wednesday, November 28th at 7pm Did you know that many rare species in our state such as Blanding's turtles, little brown bats, timber rattle snakes and Britton's violets have significant populations within 30 miles of Boston? This challenges the notion that the area "inside 495", the outer limits of Greater Boston, is simply too urbanized and fragmented by roads to be of much conservation value. Wildlife conservation "inside 495" will rarely be a passive affair of simply protecting habitat; instead it will require long-term, sustained, and active management involving the cooperation of private landowners and a variety of public agencies. Bryan will describe some ongoing conservation projects related to many of the species mentioned above and some of the challenges involved in conserving wildlife in suburbs and cities. Bryan Windmiller is head of Grassroots Wildlife Conservation, Inc. and is a board member of Friends of ARNWR. Bryan works as an independent consulting ecologist and educator and specializes in developing hands-on educational programs into the conservation of rare species. The Friends' monthly meetings are usually held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. Talks are free and open to the general public.

(PLEASE TURN PAGE OVER FOR MORE PROGRAMMING INFORMATION)

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, November 30th at 10:30am November's hibernation program will include a story and an art project (decorating a "cave" or other "house" for the winter). Please bring a teddy bear! Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month (**except** this month it will be the 5th Friday due to the holiday!) 10:30am – 11:30am for 2 to 5 year olds; siblings welcome.

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 gardenada@gmail.com
Programs currently being developed – check <http://www.friendsoftheoxbownwr.org/> for up-to-date information

Nature Hike: Sunday, November 18 at 1:00-2:00 pm Join the Nashua River Watershed Association for this hike through the Oxbow NWR guided by Al Futterman, NRWA Land Programs Director. We'll look for signs of wildlife and talk about the river and wetland ecosystems in the Refuge. Trails have been selected for ease of walking for general public—all ages welcome. Hikes are approximately one hour long and cover roughly two miles. Please note that dogs are not allowed at the refuge. This walk is part of the NRWA's Outdoor Wellness Walking program. The NRWA has created a series of eleven free guided hikes in eleven different communities with the purpose of introducing people to properties in their area where they can walk for exercise, and where they can see interesting wildlife and habitat. See the full list of walks at the end of this email. This hike is free and open to the public, funded in part by a grant from the Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund. Pre-registration is encouraged for planning purposes. To register, and to get directions to the trailhead, please contact Al Futterman, NRWA Land Programs Director, at (978) 448-0299, or email AlF@NashuaRiverWatershed.org. FREE

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

Bird Walks: Tuesday, November 6th and Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30-9:30am Join volunteer, Alan Bragg, for a midweek exploration of the Concord impoundments at Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Trips will be oriented towards beginners, but as always anyone is welcome. 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 at 339-545-1737

Autumn Nature Walks: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord): Sunday, November 11th at 3:30-5:45pm
As the landscape turns toward autumn, September brings a wave of new wildflowers and colorful fruits whose distinctive forms and saturated hues herald the end of a long summer. October marks a colorful transition in the marsh, surrounding forests, and along the river's edge that moves toward the earthen tones and silky-seeded appointments of November. Distinctive blossoms, last fruits, varied seed pods, the gossamer of autumn spiders, flocking birds, and mushroom surprises all will greet us in our ramblings through the refuge. For our final autumn walk, we'll enjoy the splendor of a November sunset and the silhouetted vestiges of summer life in the marsh. *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/>

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/>

