

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

Tours of the Visitor Center, every Saturday & Sunday at 11am & 2pm Take a guided tour of the building and exhibits; learn about our programs. Bring a friend or family member that might enjoy a visit to the refuge.

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, August 24th at 10:30am August's butterfly activities will include information about butterflies and how the FWS is trying to help these species, an art activity, and a short exploration to see if we can find these live creatures (if weather permits). Please bring appropriate clothing. Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for **3 to 5 year olds**; siblings welcome.

Nighthawk Migration: Saturday, August 25th at 6-8pm Once a very familiar nesting bird in Massachusetts, the Common Nighthawk has been declining in numbers for the last century. It is also usually an inconspicuous bird with its drab brown coloration and nocturnal habits. However, thousands of the birds can still be seen migrating through Eastern Massachusetts in late August in loose flocks far overhead at dusk, and sometimes feeding much closer to the ground. Local bird enthusiasts have used this annual opportunity to count numbers of Nighthawks as they travel through our area and maintain a database of migration numbers in the Sudbury/Assabet/Concord River watersheds, and beyond. We will use this session to see if any Nighthawks migrate through or feed over Assabet River NWR. Nighthawk identifying tips will be covered, including how to distinguish them from other evening flyers, especially swifts, swallows and bats. We may also hear and see beavers, muskrats or owls. Please contact Kizette to **RSVP** by 3pm on Friday, August 24th.



Friends Star Party: Wednesday, September 26th at 7:30pm Join us at the refuge to stargaze with the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston who will set up a variety of telescopes and guide us through the millions of celestial objects visible in the night sky. Use a red LED flashlight or a flashlight covered in red cellophane, to help you find your way but not ruin the dark adaptation for those who are viewing through the telescopes. Dress warmly as the temperatures tend to drop off after dusk and bring plenty of bug spray. Familiarize yourself with the night sky for this month by visiting www.skymaps.com. For more info visit www.atmob.org. If weather precludes stargazing, we'll post an announcement on this website.

Refuge Fledgling Hour: Friday, September 28th 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.

Introduction to Fishing for Kids: Friday, September 28th at 5-6:30pm Is your child interested in learning how to fish? The evening is a good time to see if you can get a bite! Come learn about the different types of fish found in Puffer Pond and hopefully catch a nice view of the sunset. Registration is open for 8 kids. Fishing pole and equipment is not required. Please contact Kizette to **RSVP** by 3pm on Thursday, September 27th.

National Public Lands Day: Saturday, September 29th at 9am Come volunteer to ensure the trails at Assabet River NWR are maintained and ready for the winter season! If we get a big group of volunteers we will split into groups to try and cover all 15 miles of trails on the refuge. Bring a snack, water, sunscreen, bug repellent, work boots, gloves and if you have some tools. Please contact Kizette to **RSVP** by 3pm on Friday, September 28th.

Save the date! Puffer Pond Archeological Survey Findings: October 20th at 1-3pm Duncan Ritchie, Senior Archaeologist at the Public Archaeology Laboratory, will give a presentation on the archeological findings of puffer pond.

Fall Historical Bus Tour: Sunday, October 28th 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.*

(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 awoolston1@yahoo.com

Observing Nighthawks: Sunday, August 19th – Saturday, Sept 8th at 5:30-7:30pm Every evening one of the Friends of the Oxbow NWR will be participating in the regional nighthawk migration survey and will teach you how to identify these birds in flight, about their comings and goings and their life styles. As a volunteer counter, you will help collect data on these classic migrants. Surveys so far have shown that these birds seem to be in decline. The first two Sunday evenings 8/19 and 8/26 will be geared to the educational part of the program. Under the guidance of expert birders Dick and Peggy Knowlton, you'll learn some amazing facts and identification tips. Dr. Richard Brown, who is also an avid birder, will join us regularly during the course of the three weeks. You are welcome to join any or all of the evenings. Note: even though the birds might continue their migration during bad weather, we people will stay home. To find out if the survey will take place on a particular night, call Don Macfarlane at 978-897-7567. Gather at the Oxbow Fields toward the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard.

Monarch Butterfly Tagging (Family event): Saturday, September 8th at 3pm Try to catch a monarch butterfly and then learn how to put a tag onto one of the wings. Where do you look for the caterpillars, green and golden little treasures, other insects? Will those Monarchs be the ones flying all the way to Mexico? The tagging is part of the yearly nationwide Monarch Butterfly Survey. Gather at the Oxbow Fields toward the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard. Canceled in case of rain or extreme heat. RSVP is recommended to Rona or Ada.

Scavenger Hunt: Sunday, September 9th at 2pm See how many of the listed items you can locate and use your camera to prove this. Small prizes will be awarded to the participants with the highest scores. The Scavenger Hunt is a fun event for young and old. It starts at 2:00 at the main parking lot at the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard and should run for about two hours. The hunt will be canceled in case of rain or extreme heat. Bring your camera, water, insect repellent, and dress for the occasion (long, light-colored pants, good walking shoes, etc.). Pre-register with Rona or Ada.

Bird Banding: Sunday, September 16th at TBA Families welcome. This program takes part over much of the day. If you come early, you can help set up the nets. Details are not yet available, but will be forthcoming on our website (FriendsoftheOxbowNWR.org). Canceled in case of rain.

Introduction to Backyard Geology Join us for a **two-part program** about the geological history of the area. Did you ever wonder why rocks grow in your garden? Why is the Wachusett Reservoir where it is? Why do streams entering the Nashua River go in the wrong direction? These and other features are a result of the area's glacial past. Come explore the glaciers' influence on our backyard geology. The **first part of the program** is an introduction and is not required, but is encouraged, and will be held on **Friday, September 28th at 7pm** (location TBA). The visual overview will look at two current glaciers, Gulkana Glacier in Alaska and Fox Glacier in New Zealand, and how similar glaciers that covered our landscape 10,000 years ago shaped specific local features. The **second part of the program** is a viewing on the ground glacial features: drumlins, eskers, kettle holes, ancient deltas and kame terraces, boulder trains among others, and will be held on **Saturday, September 29th 9am-1pm**. We will meet at the Nashoba Valley Overlook on Prospect Hill Road near Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, go to the Oxbow National Refuge on Still River Depot Road and car pool to various locations on and off the Refuge. As there will be road travel, space will be limited for the fieldtrip. Please contact Rona Balco, 978-779-2259, to reserve a space.

Grand Opening of Oxbow NWR Visitor Contact Station on Hospital Road in Devens – October – Final Date TBD

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): Date and Time TBD *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/assabetrivernwr

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

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

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

