

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# News Release

## *Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex*

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For More Information, please call:

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### U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX **PUBLIC PROGRAMS, May and June 2022**

These programs are offered FREE to the public by a dedicated and skilled group of volunteers, Friends of the NWRs of Rhode Island, and local community partners in an effort to increase your enjoyment of the conservation, protection, and enhancement of your National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island.

**Please call 364.9124 to register for the programs and please visit [www.15minutefieldtrips.org/about](http://www.15minutefieldtrips.org/about) to learn more about the guide nature hikes.**

#### **Animal Detectives**

Examine evidence of animals such as skulls and fur, exoskeletons, cocoons, bark tunnels, chewed leaves, and images of animal homes, scat, and tracks. Go on a short, guided hike to look for more animal clues.

**May 28, 2022, Saturday 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Kettle Pond Visitor Center**

#### **Free Soil Testing and Mini Tours of Kettle Pond Native Plant Garden**

URI Master Gardener volunteers conduct free soil pH testing as a service to the residents of Rhode Island and surrounding areas until October 31 annually. The test helps determine soil pH levels and predominant soil texture, and provides basic information and recommendations for gradual correction of soil pH and compaction issues. To learn more about where to get your soil tested or how to take a soil sample, visit: [uri.edu/mastergardener/soil-testing-service](http://uri.edu/mastergardener/soil-testing-service)

**June 2 and 9, 2022 Thursdays 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Kettle Pond Visitor Center**

#### **Picasso's Kids**

"Miss Arts" Nordstrom will teach children how to paint from sketches of life, in this fun, beginner's art class. If you have never picked up a brush before but have always wanted to take a painting class, this is the class for you! Create pictures working with watercolors, oils, or acrylic paints. You will be guided every step of the way as "Miss Art" teaches you how to paint using her very special "Nordstrom Technique." This class is free, and all materials are provided. Please provide your children with a smock or an old shirt to protect their clothing. For ages 5 and above.

**June 4, 2022, Saturday 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Kettle Pond Visitor Center**

### **Moths & Butterflies**

Design a simple origami butterfly or moth while learning about the host plants of various native species. Take a guided walk around the native plant pollinator garden. See how many different pollinators you can find.

**June 14, 2022 Tuesday 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Kettle Pond Visitor Center**

### **Be a Bee!**

Role-play the various jobs of honeybees, then learn about the important role solitary bees play, and see how to create homes/habitats for these busy bees!

**June 18, 2022 Saturday 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Kettle Pond Visitor Center**

### **Stop by Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm!**

Take a short hike to the Observation Tower to see Block Island and Ninigret Coastal Pond.

Be creative at the art table with education nature crafts.

Explore the life-like exhibits and discovery drawers.

Discover the activity rooms with lots of puzzles, games, books, and more!

**Hiking trails, which connect to Burlingame and Watchaug Pond (part kettle pond and glacial lake), are open from sunrise to sunset.**

**Coming next month – Archery, Wild About Reading, and More!**

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)*