



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **April, 2014**

REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 75 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

“Up Close and Personal” Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Sunday, April 6th @ 1:00 pm; Friday, April 11th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, April 12th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, April 13th @ 1:00 pm; Friday, April 18th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, April 19th @ 9:30 am; Friday, April 25th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, April 26th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, April 27 @ 1:00 pm; and Monday, April 28th @ 1:00 pm.

Join a refuge ranger for an “up close and personal” tour of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will provide an “insider’s” perspective of the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 8 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge.

Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.

Spring Hawk Watching on Plum Island- A Different Type of Birding!

Friday, April 4th at 7:00 pm

April is the time you can see a variety of spectacular hawks unusually well on the refuge as they migrate through our area. Join Paul Roberts, Founder of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW), for a narrated slide presentation about the amazing birds of prey you can see in spring.

This hour-long, encore presentation will be held in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

“Maker Madness” at the Parker River NWR Visitor Center

Sunday, April 6th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Here’s a one day event that will provide an opportunity to explore the refuge by hi-tech device! From March 28th – April 7th geocachers around the world will join together to celebrate the people in their community who make geocaching possible. Stop by the refuge visitor center on Sunday, April 6th between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm to join in the “Maker Madness” geocaching fun!

For anyone who hasn’t participated in this hands-on, outdoor, and very fun activity, we will start off the day with an introduction to geocaching, GPS (global positioning system) receivers and tips for how to get started. For more experienced cachers, this will be a great day to share stories about favorite caches and cache containers that you have found!

After learning the basics of GPS navigation, you can try out your new-found skills on a portion of the refuge’s GeoQuest Trail – and learn about Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in the process! The first trail stage is conveniently located on the visitor center grounds.

There will also be some unique cache containers on hand to check out, too, and you may even win one! And don’t forget – this event is a registered “Maker Madness” event, so not only will you have fun learning about geocaching and this amazing national wildlife refuge, you will also earn a special “Maker Madness” souvenir from Groundspeak for attending the event! Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

Woodcock Walk

Friday, April 11th; Saturday, April 12th; and Sunday, April 13th; Program start time: 6:30 pm

Each spring American woodcocks engage in one of nature’s most fascinating courtship displays. Here’s your chance to witness this “sky dance” up close and in-person! This program is appropriate for ages 8 and older. Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. Bring binoculars. Limited to 15 participants. **Preregistration required.**

Photo Seminar: Digital Concepts: RAW format, ISO, Noise, and Histograms

Saturday, April 12th, 9:00 am to noon

This free seminar, presented in the visitor center auditorium by photographer Michael Milicia, will provide valuable insight into the technology behind four very important aspects of digital image capture. You will learn what is contained in a RAW image file, how ISO is implemented in the digital world, what causes noise and ways to minimize it at capture time, and how on-camera histograms are built and how to interpret them. A conceptual understanding of the underlying digital technology will enable you to make better and more informed choices in the field to obtain maximum image quality. It is suggested that you bring your camera and a small lens (e.g. 24-70 or 70-200) to class. Mr. Milicia’s images can be viewed at this web site:

www.michaelmiliciaphotography.com/. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required**.

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 12th at 1:30 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The April meeting of the Photographic Society will feature a presentation by photographer Cynthia Perdigao, who will present a program called *Inspiration: Flowers and the Story of You*. Over the last several years Cynthia has developed a strong local following, particularly because of her beautiful images of flowers. About that particular subject, she says “I have a very deep love for flower photography and other macro photography [subjects]. Great subjects are everywhere and will reveal themselves if you are not only seeing and looking, but also feeling and being present. Feeling is an inherent reaction that we as photographers can reframe for the viewer.” See more of Cynthia’s fine images at her web site: <http://www.sumkovi.smugmug.com/>.

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members’ work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge’s various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required**.

Anticipating the Future: Investing Now to Prepare for Climate Impacts

Wednesday, April 16th, beginning at 7:00 pm (Snow date: April 23rd)

This is another presentation in an ongoing series of public programs about climate change. The speaker, Wendi Goldsmith, is CEO of Bioengineering Group, located in Salem, Massachusetts. This evening program will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required**.

This series of free public programs is sponsored by Storm Surge, a group formed by local citizens who were brought together out of a collective concern about the impacts of sea level rise, extreme weather events, and other effects of long-term climate change. The group and the refuge share a strong interest in educating the public about this compelling issue.

Photo Seminar: Manual Exposure – It’s Easier Than You Think

Saturday, April 19th, 9:00 am to noon

This free seminar will be presented in the visitor center auditorium by photographer Michael Milicia. This session on metering and exposure begins with the basics and gradually builds on them in a step by step manner which makes it suitable for all levels of photographers. Once you grasp the underlying concepts, you will see that working in Manual mode is no more difficult than working in an automatic exposure mode and, in many situations, it is actually easier. It is suggested that you bring your camera and a small lens (e.g. 24-70 or 70-200) to class. Mr. Milicia’s images can be

viewed at this web site: www.michaelmiliciaphotography.com/. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

**Earth Day Movie: *Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*
Tuesday, April 22nd, 7:00 pm**

The first full-length documentary film ever made about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold, *Green Fire* highlights Leopold's extraordinary career, tracing how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement. Leopold remains relevant today, inspiring projects all over the country that connect people and land. What better way to spend Earth Day than by learning about one of America's premiere conservation thinkers and writers?! This one hour film will be shown in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**