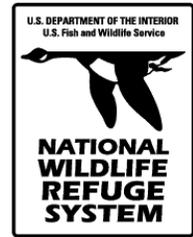


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Join Us for Free, Fun Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge **April, 2015**



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.

A Special Evening Presentation: *Save the Monarch!*

Wednesday, April 8th, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Pretty much everyone has seen a monarch butterfly – at least in photographs. But did you know that this charismatic insect's numbers are in dramatic decline? Katie Hone, *The Monarch Gardener*, will deliver a very special presentation about the monarch and its natural history, the reasons for their decline, and the many conservation efforts that are happening across their migration pathway. She'll also provide tips for how you can help the monarch by planting a native plant garden in your own backyard! This program, which is most appropriate for teens and adults, will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **No preregistration; attendance is limited to the first 75 attendees.**

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturday, April 4th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, April 5th @ 1:00 pm; Friday, April 10th @9:30 am; Sunday, April 12th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, April 18th at 9:30 am; Sunday, April 19th @1:00 pm; Friday, April 24th @9:30 am; Saturday, April 25th @9:30 am, and Sunday, April 26th @1:00 pm

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief "drive by" stops along the way. The tour will present an "up close and personal" look at 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. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. 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 14 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.

Photographing the Night Sky!

Saturday, April 11th @ 1:30 pm

Join us for a (virtual) night under the stars! Pro photographer Christopher Georgia will deliver a presentation about photographing the night skies around New England. His presentation will include stills, panoramas, blended images, time lapse, and the process behind capturing the stars. Learn how to find the Milky Way galaxy, track the Aurora Borealis, as well as how light pollution heavily affects the ability to capture the stars. If you have an interest in astrophotography, you won't want to miss this! Visit Christopher's web site for a sneak peak: <http://www.cmgfoto.com/>.

This special presentation is being provided in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR. The 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. The presentation will be conducted in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **No preregistration; attendance is limited to the first 75 attendees.**

Refuge Family Cinema – FREE Movies for Kids and Families

Sunday, April 12th @1:30 pm: Wall-E

Sunday, April 19th @ 1:30 pm: Fly Away Home

Spend part of the afternoon watching a great FREE film on the big screen in the comfort of the visitor center auditorium. These are great, entertaining family films with environmental themes. The Friends of Parker NWR will even provide popcorn and bottled water (for a suggested donation). **No preregistration; attendance is limited to the first 75 attendees.**

NEW: Nelson Island Tour

Sunday, April 12th, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm; Saturday, April 18th, Noon – 1:30 pm, and Sunday, April 26th, 10:00 – 11:30 am.

Explore another part of the refuge – this time, on the mainland. Join a ranger for a tour of a beautiful spot that few people visit: Nelson Island. If we're lucky, we might catch a glimpse of a great horned owl or a nesting osprey. Learn about the history of this little known refuge jewel. If weather permits, we'll take a short walk along the marsh to an area with great views. (Muddy, wet

areas are possible, so rubber boots are recommended.) Consider bringing binoculars and/or a camera. **Program is limited to 8 people. Preregistration is required.**

Woodcock Walk at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Friday, April 17th @ 7:15 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 in front of the Great Bay office, just opposite the parking lot, at 7:15 pm. Bring binoculars and a flashlight. Program is limited to 20 participants. **Preregistration required.** (Directions: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html)

Woodcock Walk @ Parker River NWR

Saturday, April 18th @ 7:00 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 and a flashlight. Program is limited to 15 participants. **Preregistration required.**

Volunteer Plover Warden Orientation

Sunday, April 19th, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Do you enjoy speaking with the public, helping wildlife, and spending time on the beach? This orientation will teach you about the piping plover, as well as provide an overview of what it means to serve as a volunteer Plover Warden. Plover Wardens make a significant contribution to the success of the refuge's piping plover conservation efforts. As of April 1st most of the refuge beach is closed to all public entry in order to provide undisturbed habitat for this federally threatened species. Plover Wardens are stationed at the north and south ends of the refuge's six mile long ocean beach. Plover Wardens greet refuge visitors, informally interpret the refuge's plover management efforts and notify staff of closure violations. Participants in this session will hear from and be able to ask questions of refuge staff that specialize in biology, law enforcement and visitor services. Attending the session does not obligate you to volunteer. Meet in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.**



EARTH DAY EVENT: Nature Story Time

Wednesday, April 22nd @ 11:00 am

A new partnership between the refuge and the Newburyport Public Library, this particular story hour is being conducted in recognition of Earth Day. After listening to a couple of bird-themed stories, participating children will have an opportunity to build and take home their very own birdfeeders. This program is appropriate for children ages 5 to 9 and will take place in the Children's Room at the Newburyport Public Library. **This program is FREE and does NOT require preregistration.**



EARTH DAY MOVIE: *Vanishing of the Bees*

Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm

Honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing across the planet, literally vanishing from their hives. Known as Colony Collapse Disorder, this phenomenon has brought beekeepers to crisis in an industry responsible for producing apples, broccoli, watermelon, onions, cherries and a hundred other fruits and vegetables. But what is causing this problem? This award-winning documentary plumbs the depth of this pressing issue. Presented by the Friends of Parker River NWR. The film will be shown in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **No preregistration; attendance is limited to the first 75 attendees.**

Stormwater Faire

Saturday, April 25th, 9:00 am - Noon

Sponsored by local water conservation agencies, this is a fun and informative event for kids. They will learn about the importance of water conservation through hands-on activities. Through handouts and lessons, kids will then be able to apply what they learn to their water conservation practices at home. They can even earn a "Water Protector" badge for completing activity stations.

Special Repeat Screening: *Vanishing of the Bees*

Sunday, April 26th at 1:30 pm

Honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing across the planet, literally vanishing from their hives. Known as Colony Collapse Disorder, this phenomenon has brought beekeepers to crisis in an industry responsible for producing apples, broccoli, watermelon, onions, cherries and a hundred other fruits and vegetables. But what is causing this problem? This award-winning documentary plumbs the depth of this pressing issue. The film will be shown in the refuge visitor center's auditorium. **No preregistration; attendance is limited to the first 75 attendees.**

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Gallery: Each month a different photographer or artist displays their nature and/or wildlife-related fine art in the refuge visitor center auditorium

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center's front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge's very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique them, is produced each month.