



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

April, 2018

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 85 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.

****Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR**

Held on the following days: Saturday, April 7th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, April 8th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 14th @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, April 21st @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, April 22nd @ 1:00 p.m.; and Saturday, April 28th @ 9:30 a.m.

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. **Preregistration 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. ****Please note: When snow and ice prevents access to the regular "behind the scenes" segments of the tour, the tour leader will, instead, include a loop to the northern end of Plum Island.**

New England Cottontail Work Day at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge!

Saturday, April 7th, from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Help this rare bunny by helping us plant live stakes in the New England Cottontail breeding pen. We will cut branches off existing shrubs, cut them into 3-foot sections, and then plant them into open areas within the pen. Please bring gloves and loppers and/or pruning shears, if you have them. Waterproof footwear is recommended. **Preregistration is required.**

Woodcock Walk at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, April 7th @ 7:15 p.m. & Saturday, April 21st @ 7:30 p.m.

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. Bring a flashlight and binoculars, if you have them. Program is limited to 15 participants and will last about one hour.

Preregistration required.

(Directions: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html)

****Focus on Birds: Special Behind the Scenes Tour of Parker River NWR**

Monday, April 9th & Monday, April 23rd, both from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

This special edition of the refuge's Behind the Scenes (BTS) tour will be led by veteran birder, and refuge volunteer, Bill Gette. While the tour will follow the usual BTS route, the leader will place a special emphasis on the birds that are typically found on the refuge in the spring. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, if they have them. Tour is limited to 14 participants. Meet the tour leader in the refuge visitor center lobby 15 minutes before the program start time. This program is most appropriate for teens and adults. **Preregistration required.** ****Please note: When snow and ice prevents access to the regular "behind the scenes" segments of the refuge tour, the tour leader will, instead, take the group to other locations on the island and mainland where birds are more likely to be seen.**

Special Evening Program: Ancient Artisans of the Parker River Watershed

Monday, April 9th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Native Americans used raw materials in native arts and crafts, materials that are as plentiful in the Parker River watershed. Examples of their art provide an insight into their culture, which has often been overlooked for generations in our local history. Historian Mary Ellen Lepionka will share her knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, this most interesting topic. She is a publisher, author, editor, textbook developer, and college instructor with a Master's degree in anthropology from Boston University and post-graduate work at the University of British Columbia. Since 2008, she has researched the findings and available information in our local area of the Native American people who lived here. She is a trustee and member of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. The program will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. This free public program is sponsored by the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Parker River NWR. **NO preregistration for this program.**

Special Photo Society Program: Introduction to Astrophotography

Saturday, April 14th @ 1:30 p.m.

Pro Photographer Christopher Georgia (from NH) will be "in the house" to do a presentation about astrophotography. Photographing the night sky has been all the rage for the last several years. And it just so happens that Christopher is one of the true experts! He has also done quite a lot of time lapse photography. He's a great presenter.

The refuge's 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 85 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

Woodcock Walk at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, April 14th @ 7:15 p.m.; Friday, April 20th @ 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 28th @ 7:30 p.m.

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. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to the program start time. **Preregistration required.**



In Honor of Earth Day, 2018



Annual Open House – Find Out What's Happening at Your Local Refuges!

Friday, April 20th; two sessions: 1:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Spend an hour or so with Refuge Manager Bill Peterson, joined by other staff, as he provides an update of what is happening, or will be happening, at the Complex's four national wildlife refuges (Parker River, Great Bay, Wapack, and Thacher Island). Perhaps of particular interest, learn about our exciting plans for making major improvements to the well-used and well-loved Hellcat boardwalk system. **NO preregistration for this program**, which will take place in the refuge's visitor center auditorium.

A Very Special Film Screening: *The Sense of Wonder*

Friday, April 20th @ 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The documentary-style film *A Sense Of Wonder* takes the form of two interviews with Rachel Carson during the last year of her life, as she battles cancer and her critics in the wake of publishing *Silent Spring*. Using the author's own writings as the basis for the film, writer and actress Kaiulani Lee provides an intimate glimpse of Carson as she is thrust into the role of controversial public figure. This film is made all the more compelling because it was filmed on location in Maine, including at the late author's summer home. **No preregistration for this program.**

Fun Craft Activities for Kids

Saturday, April 21st, from 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Participate in a number of fun, hands-on craft activities. Contribute original artwork to an Earth Day – themed mural that will be displayed on the refuge web site. **No preregistration for this program.**

Live Raptor Show

Saturday, April 21st, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Spend an hour with Jane Kelly, and several of her live birds of prey, in the refuge auditorium, while learning about the habits and habitats of these fascinating creatures. Jane, of *On the Wing Raptor Rehabilitation*, will reprise the hugely popular program that she delivered as part of last year's Earth Day celebration. **No preregistration for this program.**

Great Bay Shoreline Cleanup

Saturday, April 21st, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

With the help of community volunteers, we can keep our bay clean. Volunteers will be guided by USFWS personnel to closed areas of the refuge where they will remove garbage and debris from the shoreline. Let's promote clean water and a healthy environment for wildlife and people! Groups and families are welcome. We advise wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, and sturdy boots. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, a light snack and water. Supplies provided include trash bags, gloves, and data tracking sheets. Meet at the parking lot at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. **Sign up online at:** <https://naturegroupie.org>.

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Friday, April 27th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of wildlife habitats while learning how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for conservation. Consider bringing along binoculars and a camera. The tour is limited to 8 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. This guided program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Parker River NWR visitor center in Newburyport no later than 9:00 am OR in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH no later than 9:45 am. (Indicate location you prefer at time of registration.) 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. **Preregistration required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

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 theme, is produced each month.