Join Us for Free, Fun Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
December, 2019

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
Sunday, December 8th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 14th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 15th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 21st @ 9:30 a.m.; and Saturday, December 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. 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. Preregistration required. Please call (978) 465-5753 to register.

Conservation Cinema:
Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time
Wednesday, December 4th @ 7:00 p.m. & Friday, December 6th @ 1:00 p.m.
Aldo Leopold is considered the most important conservationist of the twentieth-century. He is the father of the national wilderness system, wildlife management and ecological restoration. His classic book A Sand County Almanac inspires us to see the natural world as a community to which we belong. Green Fire explores Leopold’s personal journey of observation and understanding and reveals how his ideas resonate today with people across the entire American landscape, from inner cities to the remotest wildlands. The film challenges viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the land community.
Smart Phone Camera Academy!
**Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday, December 11th, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.**
You may not know it, but that smart phone you carry around in your pocket is also a great camera, capable of taking photos that you’d be proud to print, frame and hang on your living room wall. “But wait,” you say, “my images never look good enough for that!” Well, here’s your chance to move from snapshots to great shots! In this informative, informal program, Ranger Poole will provide all the tips and tools necessary for you to create your own wall art. Meet in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **NO preregistration for this program.**

Focus on Birds: Special Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Parker River NWR
**Friday, December 13th & Tuesday, December 17th; both sessions 9:00 – 11:30 a.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 fall. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, if they have them. Tour is limited to 8 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.**

Climate Change – Behind the Scenes Tour!
**Thursday, December 12th & Thursday, December 19th; both sessions 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
This variant of our popular Behind the Scenes Tour of Parker River NWR will place a special emphasis on the local implications of climate change – particularly on the salt marsh and the barrier beach island that protects it. Learn about some of the things that refuge staff are doing to better understand and predict potential future impacts of climate change on wildlife and their habitats. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the refuge visitor center 10 – 15 minutes prior to start time. **Preregistration required.**

Winter Wildlife Flicks!
*Enjoy a wonderful, wildlife-themed film on the BIG SCREEN, with surround sound, at the refuge visitor center on a Sunday afternoon! All films begin at 1:30 p.m. No preregistration for these films; simply show up!*

**Sunday, December 15th:** *Forest of the Lynx:* Three years in the making, *Forest of the Lynx* chronicles life in this remote wilderness and the complex partnerships among plants, insects, animals and trees. The program follows the life cycles of the park’s inhabitants through the seasons. (2017; Run Time: 53 minutes)

**Sunday, December 29th:** *The Original DUCK-umentary:* Ducks are ancient creatures. True originals, ducks practice habitual lifestyles that have been essential to their evolutionary success for millions of years. There are more than 120 different species of ducks—many with delightful names like “Buffleheads,” “Shovelers,” and “Woodies” that embody their charming personalities and curious mannerisms. Despite the glorious display of their iridescent feathers, these webbed-footed waterfowl maintain a reputation for being clumsy and awkward. But in reality they are surprisingly athletic birds; some have been clocked flying almost 100 mph, allowing them to outpace eagles and hawks. Ducks have an uncanny knack for survival, and their exuberant behavior never ceases to entertain. Take to the skies with a flock of green-winged Teal. Watch Wood ducks raise a family. Learn why Goldeneyes head north in the winter. Each bird is unique, full of surprises, and will leave you eager to learn more. (2012; Run Time: 60 minutes)
Becoming a “Wildlife Detective!”

Monday, December 30th, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Even in the middle of winter, nature is a very busy “place!” Though you may not see them, there are an amazing variety of creatures going about their business, outdoors, all winter long. What you can see are the tracks and other sign that they leave behind. Participants in this program will be able to explore a typically closed area to look for clues that paint a picture of “who was here” and “what they were doing.” Participants should meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station on the refuge at parking lot 1. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early. This program is appropriate for people of all ages and skill sets. Enrollment is limited to 10. Preregistration is required.

“Pop-up” Snowshoe Tours at Great Bay NWR

Want to check out behind the scenes on a perfect snow day at Great Bay NWR in December? Register your contact info to get the scoop on when we'll hold our December pop-up snowshoeing tours! Who knows when or if it will snow? We'll be hoping for great conditions! Receive an email invite with details of the date and time we'll meet, or keep an eye on our Facebook event page. Spots will be filled on a first to respond basis. Head on over to www.naturegroupie.com, and register your contact info to get first dibs. Once you register, use the hashtag #gbnwrsnowday & #naturegroupie to spread the word!

Participants will have an opportunity to snowshoe areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public while looking for signs of wildlife in a winter landscape. The refuge provides a wonderful clean slate of untouched snow, which is the most ideal condition when looking for animal tracks! Learn about what animals do in the winter season for food and shelter, and how to identify tracks, scat, and signs of their passage. This program is suitable for adults. Please come dressed for snowshoeing in winter conditions. Consider bringing along binoculars or camera. Snowshoes are NOT provided but are required. Participants will meet the volunteer guide in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH. For directions to the refuge, click on this link:
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html
Join Us for Free, Fun Programs!
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
January, 2020

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Becoming a “Wildlife Detective!”
Friday, January 3rd and Monday, January 27th; both sessions 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Even in the middle of winter, nature is a very busy “place!” Though you may not see them, there are an amazing variety of creatures going about their business, outdoors, all winter long. What you can see are the tracks and other sign that they leave behind. Participants in this program will be able to explore a typically closed area to look for clues that paint a picture of “who was here” and “what they were doing.” Participants should meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station on the refuge at parking lot 1. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early. This program is appropriate for people of all ages and skill sets. Enrollment is limited to 10. Preregistration is required.

**Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR
Sunday, January 5th @ 1:00 p.m.; Tuesday, January 14th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, January 18th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, January 19th @ 1:00 p.m.; Thursday, January 23rd @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, January 25th @ 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. 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. **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.

Smartphone Camera Academy  
**Saturday, January 11th, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
You may not know it, but that smart phone you carry around in your pocket is also a great camera, capable of taking photos that you’d be proud to print, frame and hang on your living room wall. “But wait,” you say, “my images never look good enough for that!” Well, here’s your chance to move from snapshots to great shots! In this informative, informal program, Ranger Poole will provide all the tips and tools necessary for you to create your own wall art. Meet in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **NO preregistration for this program.**

Exploring Smartphone Apps for Nature & Wildlife  
**Saturday, January 11th, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**  
81 percent of Americans now own a smartphone. That means that, potentially, 81% of the visitors to Parker River National Wildlife already own a device that can be a very powerful tool for learning about nature and wildlife. During this presentation in the refuge visitor center’s auditorium, Ranger Poole will demonstrate a number of popular smartphone “apps” that do such things as identify a bird based on its appearance (Merlin), identify a bird by the song it sings (Song Sleuth), and identify pretty much anything else encountered in nature (iNaturalist). All of these apps are either free or can be had “for a song!” **NO preregistration for this program; simply show up!**

Winter Wildlife Flicks!  
*Enjoy a wonderful, wildlife-themed film on the BIG SCREEN, with surround sound, at the refuge visitor center on a Sunday afternoon! All films begin at 1:30 p.m. No preregistration for these films; simply show up!*  

**Sunday, January 12th: Fox Tales:** On a high ridge in Newfoundland, Canada, nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the borders of an old grove forest, a red fox, the matron of her family group, gives birth yet again. Follow the pups as they grow and learn to hunt, adapt, and survive. Explore the family dynamic of these clever creatures as bonds are formed. But the vixen knows that not all her cubs will inherit these tall trees, crystal lakes, and the ocean spray. Before the snows come again, she will have to banish some of her offspring for the good of the family. We also hear from scientists in Madison, Wisconsin and Bristol, England, about their studies on urban Red foxes who are facing a much different challenge than their Canadian counterparts. And another scientist tracks how red foxes are moving out to the Arctic tundra and surviving in one of the harshest landscapes. (2017; run time: one hour)

**Sunday, January 26th: Voyage to the Galapagos:** Alan Alda follows in Charles Darwin’s footsteps, meeting the animals and birds that inspired Darwin's theory of evolution. Alda joins scientists who witness the daily struggle for survival that has shaped the Galapagos Islands’ unique wildlife. As he experiences the enchantment of the islands, he learns of efforts to protect them from alien invaders including the 60,000 eco-tourists who visit every year. (2010; run time: 1 hour)

NEW! Environmental Film and Discussion Series  
**First Session: Tuesday, January 14th, 6:30- 7:30 p.m.**  
Kick off your New Year by participating in a new series of four programs that will use the wildly popular, critically acclaimed film *Tomorrow* to inspire thoughtful discussion about dealing with specific, climate-change related issues at the local level. The film follows four everyday people on their journey to find alternative and creative ways of viewing agriculture, economics, energy and education. Rather than a
doom and gloom climate change film, *Tomorrow* focuses on positive, achievable, and local solutions to climate change.

Each session in the series will include a screening of a segment of *Tomorrow* that focuses on a specific, climate change-related topic. Following each screening, we will have a robust, facilitated discussion in which we explore ideas to make a positive impact in our local towns. The program in January will focus on agriculture. The three remaining programs will address economics, energy, and education.

If you are concerned about the environment, but not sure what to do, then this series is for you. Come to all four sessions or just one! This program will take place in the refuge visitor center’s auditorium. **NO preregistration for this program**; simply show up!

**Conservation Cinema: Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot**

*Wednesday, January 15th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. AND Friday, January 17th, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.*

A biography of the first Chief of the US Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot. The film shows the germination and evolution of Gifford Pinchot’s conservation ethos, his public service in the Forest Service and as Governor of Pennsylvania, and the contribution of his family estate, Grey Towers, to the federal government. Pinchot discovered his passion for conservation at Grey Towers, which is today a leader in the conservation community. The film investigates the conservation legacy of Gifford Pinchot, in work done in his lifetime and continuing today at Grey Towers National Historic Site and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. (2012; run time: 56 min.)

**Climate Change – Behind the Scenes Tour!**

*Tuesday, January 7th, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. & Thursday, January 16th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

This variant of our popular Behind the Scenes Tour of Parker River NWR will place a special emphasis on the local implications of climate change – particularly on the salt marsh and the barrier beach island that protects it. Learn about some of the things that refuge staff are doing to better understand and predict potential future impacts of climate change on wildlife and their habitats. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the refuge visitor center 10 – 15 minutes prior to start time. **Preregistration required.**

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Want to check out behind the scenes on a perfect snow day at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in January? Register your contact info to get the scoop on when we’ll hold our January pop-up snowshoeing tours! Who knows when it will snow? We’ll be hoping for great conditions! Receive an email invite with the details of the date and time we’ll meet. Spots will be filled on a first to respond basis. Once you register your contact info with Nature Groupie, use the hashtag #gbnwrssnowday & #naturegroupie to spread the word!

Participants will have an opportunity to snowshoe areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public while looking for signs of wildlife in a winter landscape. The refuge provides a wonderful clean slate of untouched snow, which is the most ideal condition when looking for animal tracks! Learn about what animals do in the winter season for food and shelter, and how to identify tracks, scat, and signs of their passage.

This program is suitable for adults. Please come dressed for snowshoeing in winter conditions. Consider bringing along binoculars or camera. Snowshoes are NOT provided, but are required. Participants will meet the volunteer guide in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH. Please note: The date listed on Nature Groupie’s website is NOT the date of the pop-up event. Dates and times will be determined based on weather conditions and availability of volunteer leaders. If you have previously
registered for pop-up invitations, please do not register again.

For directions to the refuge, click on this link:
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

**Artist of the Month Exhibit (in the visitor center auditorium)**

January’s artist, Jim Ryan, will exhibit paintings of raptors. Jim is a mainly self-taught artist, working mostly with oil paint. He also uses watercolors, colored pencils, charcoal, and graphite. One of his paintings recently won the “Peoples Choice Award” at the Seacoast Art Association's annual contest. “I have always had a love of hawks, owls, and other raptors. For me, their beauty and regalness represent the best of nature. While others see their fierceness, I see their peace and feel a sense of presence.”