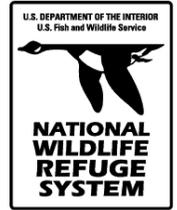


**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**



## Join Us for Free, Fun Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **December, 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/](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**

***Held on the following days: Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; and Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 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. Please call (978) 465-5753 to register for this program.***

### **Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!**

***Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am - Noon***

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 and learn 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 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. **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.) 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.*

## **Introduction to Digital Photography**

***Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 am***

If you have a digital camera but are not quite sure how to use it, then this two hour FREE seminar may be just what the doctor ordered. The presenter, an experienced photographer and educator, will provide an overview of the entire “digital workflow” – a process that begins with the click of the camera’s shutter and concludes with editing an image on a computer. Learn tips for success and have your questions answered. This program is appropriate for teens and adults. Seminar will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Preregistration is not required.

## **The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

***Next Meeting: Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm***

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.**

## **NEW! - Refuge Family Cinema: *Happy Feet***

***Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm***

Spend a few hours on a cold winter afternoon enjoying a family-centered movie with an environmental theme! And do so for FREE! As described in Smithsonian Magazine, “the main message of **Happy Feet**, a 2006 Disney feature film, is that it’s okay to be different, but environmental themes work their way in as well. The film focuses on a young penguin, Mumble, with a talent for tap dancing—something none of the other penguins can do. It follows his adventures and quest for acceptance throughout the plot, but the environmental aspect shows up when Mumble is blamed for the scarcity of fish in the ocean, a nod to overfishing. In addition, one of Mumble’s friends wears a set of plastic six-pack rings around his neck like jewelry, only to later be choked by the piece of trash.” *Happy Feet* is an example of the environment showing up in movies that are not directly about the environment.” Movie will be shown in the visitor center auditorium. Admission is FREE and preregistration is NOT required. Space is limited to 75 attendees.

## **Behind the Scenes for BIRDERS!**

***Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2:30 – 4:30 pm***

Join refuge volunteer and birder-extraordinaire Sue McGrath for a very special edition of our Behind the Scenes tour. Get a chance to see and learn about birds in their habitats on areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. Bring your binoculars and field guides. The tour is limited to 13 participants; no more than 2 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. Meet the tour leader in the lobby of the refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time.

***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.***

### **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. Patricia Lane Evans is August's Artist of the Month. She is an avid nature photographer and active member of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR.

**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.