

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **December, 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 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, December 5th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, December 6th @ 1:00 pm; Wednesday, December 9th @ 9:00 am; Sunday, December 13th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, December 19th @ 9:30 am and Sunday, December 20th @ 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.***

NEW! FREE! Kids' Conservation Cinema

On alternating Sunday afternoons through March, the refuge will be screening FREE, child-friendly films that feature a wildlife and/or environmental theme. All films will be projected on the big screen in the refuge visitor center's awesome auditorium. **No preregistration; simply show up!** All movies begin at 1:30 pm. Here is what we have scheduled for the month of December:

Sunday, December 6th at 1:30 pm: *Frozen*: Fearless optimist Anna sets off on an epic journey – teaming up with rugged mountain man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer Sven – to find her sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom of Arendelle in eternal winter. Encountering Everest-like conditions, mystical trolls and a hilarious snowman named Olaf, Anna and Kristoff battle the elements in a race to save the kingdom (2013; rated PG; run time: 102 mins.)

Sunday, December 20th at 1:30 pm: *Dolphin Tale*: In an inspirational story of the bond between animals and humans, a boy named Sawyer discovers an injured dolphin, who is brought to a marine hospital and named Winter. Unfortunately, her injuries cost Winter her tail, without which she may not survive. But with Sawyer's devotion, a marine biologist's expertise and the brilliance of a prosthetist charged with creating a new tail, Winter may receive a second chance at life (2011; rated PG; run time: 113 mins.)

SPECIAL EVENING PRESENTATION: Bats & Their Conservation in Guyana!

Thursday, December 10th @ 7:00 pm in the refuge visitor center auditorium

Biologist Thomas Horsley's presentation will focus on Operation Wallacea's work in Guyana, emphasizing his favorite animal group: bats! In addition, the program will feature his photography of this beautiful country and its wildlife. Over the past four years, Horsley has worked for Opwall in Guyana, South America, during the summer wet season, conducting annual ecological surveys of focal faunal groups. He oversaw the bat surveys and conducted research to examine the role and ecological contribution of fruit-eating bats through their dispersal of the seeds of many critical plant genera. Many of the bat species that he has studied contribute to forest fragment regeneration and provide resources for a large number of neotropical species through seed dispersal. Horsley very much enjoys involving students in his research, and many have gone on to work with bats as a result. Have you ever wondered what it's like to work with bats? He will do his best to make you feel as if you were in the jungles of Guyana with him – extracting bats from nets and collecting valuable data before releasing them back to their home. This special presentation is FREE and open to the public. **NO preregistration for this event.** Space in the auditorium is limited to 85 (first-come, first-served). This program is sponsored by the Friends of Parker River NWR.

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Wednesday, December 16th and Monday, December 28th - both programs held from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

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 14 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.)**

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. Preregistration required. For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

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

Special Presentation!: *On Silent Wings – Magic of the Snowy Owl*

Saturday, December 12th at 1:30 pm in the refuge visitor center auditorium

During the winter of 2013-2014 award-winning Massachusetts wildlife photographer Peter Christoph spent 14 full days along the Atlantic coast following the movements of a few snowy owls during their winter migration to the beaches of Salisbury, Hampton and Plum Island. They flew quite a distance from

their home on the frozen tundra in the high Arctic and Peter was there to capture these rare and intimate photographs of the snowy owls taken in their winter habitat. Several of his snowy owl photos have earned national and international awards.

Mr. Christoph's program is being presented in conjunction with the Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge's very own photo club 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.**

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.