

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **December, 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, December 1st @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 2nd @ 1:00 p.m.; Friday, December 7th @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, December 8th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 9th @ 1:00 p.m.; Friday, December 14th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 16th @ 1:00 p.m.; Monday, December 17th @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, December 22nd @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, December 29th @ 9:30 a.m.; and Sunday, December 30th @ 1:00 p.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.**

"Photo Safari" at the Ipswich River Sanctuary

Saturday, December 1st @ 9:00 a.m.

Join members of the refuge's Photographic Society for an informal, camera-centric exploration of this beautiful Massachusetts Audubon Society conservation area in Topsfield. As with all of our "photo

safaris,” we will walk the trails looking for all manner of “Kodak Moments.” All those interested in participating should plan to meet-up in the sanctuary’s parking lot no later than 9:00 a.m. Needless-to-say, participants should dress appropriately for the weather. If this program is cancelled due to weather concerns an announcement will be made on the Photographic Society’s Facebook page no later than 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Here’s the Facebook page URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/162276797217527/>. For further information about the Ipswich River Sanctuary, please visit their web site:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/ipswich-river>. There is **no preregistration for this program.**

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 other 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.

Improving Your Photos with Adobe Photoshop

Saturday, December 1st; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

As good as today’s cameras are, all digital photos can benefit from (at least) some basic image editing on a computer. And, while there are many image editing software programs “out there,” Adobe Photoshop remains one of the best and most commonly used editors. During this decidedly informal program, Ranger Poole will demonstrate a variety of common improving-edits including cropping, contrast, color saturation, rotation/leveling, sharpening, and resizing. This program will take place in the refuge visitor center’s auditorium. **No preregistration for this program.**

NEW! Winter Wildlife Movie Series

Enjoy some particularly wonderful winter wildlife-themed films on the big screen in the comfort of the refuge visitor center’s awesome auditorium...for FREE! See for yourself the cinematic experience created by our state-of-the-art laser projector, with surround sound! The following films will be shown on the following dates. **No preregistration; simply show up!**

Magic of the Snowy Owl - Sunday, December 9th @ 1:30 p.m. Throughout the long months of the Arctic’s frozen winter the sun remains below the horizon. The cold is intensified by the darkness, making life here difficult, if not impossible, for all but the toughest and most experienced of animals. Snowy owls are built for the challenge, their every sense and skill honed to take on the eerie, bleak world. And when the brief Arctic summer approaches, bringing light back to the tundra, they embark upon an even more daunting challenge than keeping themselves alive. They breed and attempt to raise young in one of the harshest environments on the planet. Once summer arrives, they will have just 82 days of sunlight to successfully raise a family of helpless owlets until they are ready and able to fly. (Approximately 1 hour)

Snowbound, Animals in Winter – Sunday, December 16th @ 1:30 p.m. The coldest and snowiest places on earth pose a challenge to anyone visiting such locations as the Arctic Circle or Antarctica, but what about the year-round animal population? How do they cope for many months with life in these frozen wonderlands where temperatures can plummet to as low as minus 50 degrees? Gordon Buchanan, a wildlife cameraman used to filming in frigid lands around the globe, explains how creatures like the wolf, Arctic fox, bison, reindeer, lynx, weasel, polar bear, penguin, Weddell seal, and woolly bear caterpillar adapt to their surroundings or employ clever tactics to survive. (Approximately 1 hour)

Christmas in Yellowstone – **Sunday, December 23rd @ 1:30 p.m.:** As snow falls and Christmas lights glow in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a holiday season of a different sort settles over the great winter world of Yellowstone, America’s first national park and one of the greatest expanses of unspoiled nature and wildlife anywhere on Earth. Breathtaking landscapes frame intimate scenes as Yellowstone’s diverse animal residents make their way through the most challenging season of the year, when nature’s inhospitality is matched only by its serenity. (Approximately 1 hour)

Nelson Island Tour

Sunday, December 9th & Sunday, December 23rd; both sessions 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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. Learn about the history of this little known refuge jewel. If weather and tide permits, we will take a very short walk along the marsh. (Muddy, wet areas are possible, so rubber boots are recommended.) Consider bringing binoculars and/or a camera. **Preregistration is required 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.

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.