

April School Vacation/Earth Day Week 2016 – All programs are free.

(WBNERR, Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Mashpee)

Wild Edible and Poisonous Plants Walk

Monday, April 18 9:00 – 11:00AM (All ages welcome)

Explore pine-oak woodlands, marsh and bog habitats adjacent to the beautiful Mashpee River at the Mashpee River Woodlands Conservation Area. Meet at the Mashpee River Woodlands (West). Directions: From the Mashpee Rotary, take Great Neck Road (South). Turn left onto River Road. Park at the end of the paved road. Hosted by Renee Fudala of the Town of Mashpee Interpretive Nature Tours.

Weathering the Storm

Tuesday, April 19 10:00 – 11:30AM

Best for ages 8 to 12, siblings welcome, all children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register for this program on-line at

www.waquoitbayreserve.org

WBNR teams up with the Red Cross and AmeriCorps to help children understand the natural elements that we see along the coast. Through fun hands-on activities and outdoor experimentation we'll discover how tides, wind, waves and storms can impact habitats along the shore. Children learn tips for being prepared and work on a project that will help them weather the storm should the need arise. Co-sponsor, American Red Cross, Cape Cod Chapter.

Abigail's Brook Hike

Wednesday, April 20 9:00AM to 10:30AM (All ages welcome)

Meet @ Jehu Pond Conservation area off Great Oak Road, Mashpee.

Celebrate the earth by exploring this amazing DCR property within the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge with a park interpreter. Learn how different groups have worked together to restore the waterway as we cross two new footbridges that provide views downstream toward Jehu Pond. We'll travel through wetlands, forest and old cranberry bog habitats searching for wildlife along the way. Event co-sponsored by Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. Please contact friendsofmnwr@gmail.com or nancy.church@state.ma.us (508-457-0495 X125) for information

American Woodcock Dance

Wednesday, April 20 6:30PM to 8:30PM (All ages welcome)

Enjoy the beautiful American Woodcock perform his aerial display during dusk, hosted by educator and birder Stu Parsons. Location will be shared with participants.

Pollinator Garden Stewardship Project

Thursday, April 21 10:00AM- 12:00PM (All ages welcome)

Meet @ Jehu Pond Conservation area off Great Oak Road, Mashpee.

Get outdoors and involved this Earth Day and discover how pollinator gardens benefit habitats and wildlife while helping to improve public lands. Join DCR and Mashpee Conservation Department staff, Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge and community volunteers who will work to enhance the garden at the entrance to the conservation area. Learn why our native bees, moths, butterflies and birds are so important while adding key plants to the area. Please bring rakes, trowels, gloves etc, if possible. Limited tools will be available. Heavy rain cancels. Groups welcome with prior notice. Event co-sponsored by Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. Please contact friendsofmnwr@gmail.com or nancy.church@state.ma.us (508-457-0495 X125) for information

Bird Watching Hike at Johns Pond Conservation Area

Friday, April 22 8:00AM-10:00AM (All ages welcome)

Look for birds in the walk along the beautiful Johns Pond, an active herring run and bogs at Johns Pond Conservation Area. Directions: From the Mashpee Rotary, take Route 151. Take a right onto Ashumet Pond, and right onto Hoophole Road. Go to the end of the stop sign and take a right onto Back Road. Hosted by Renee Fudala of the Town of Mashpee Interpretive Nature Tours.

Sense of Wonder Walk; *Inspired by Rachel Carson*

Friday, April 22, 1:00 – 2:30PM South Cape Beach State Park (Meet at Bayberry Lot, all ages welcome)

Renowned conservationist and author, Rachel Carson, provides the inspiration for this Earth Day outing to a beautiful coastal park. Enjoy the physical, mental and spiritual boost that nature can provide while searching for signs of spring as we hike to Waquoit Bay. We'll stop to recall the words of Ms. Carson while learning about her local ties and reflect upon the lasting impact of her work on the environmental movement.