

Public Programs/Events – 2013

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge



March 16

Majority of Refuge Closes to visitor access for wildlife observation and nature photography via hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing until Dec 1 (after nesting/migration seasons). Public use areas such as auto tour and trails, Bud Cook Hiking Area, Main Dike Road (including western portion), fishing accesses and Hwy 49 Viewing Area are open year-round for approved recreational activities – daylight hours only.

April 19-22

Old Marsh Road Open for Hiking/Bicycling – Hike or bicycle Old Marsh Road on Earth Day weekend – Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon. Daylight hours only. Adjacent dikes are closed.

April 20

Earth Day Celebration! – Live amphibians and reptiles, songs, puppets, and Entertainer and Naturalist, David Stokes from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.! Afterward, make a simple musical instrument and join in a sing-a-long. Visitor Center will be open 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.** Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off of Cty Rd Z.

May 1-15

SPECIAL EXHIBIT!

Federal Duck Stamp Contest Artwork Exhibit – On display at the Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off Cty Rd Z. See professional artwork from the 2012 national contest. The Federal Duck Stamp provides critical funding for the purchase of wetland habitat (national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas) for migratory birds and other wildlife.

May 1-31

SPECIAL EXHIBIT!

Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Exhibit – On display at the Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off Cty Rd Z. See local youth artwork from the 2013 contest. Any K-12 student is eligible – more information on how to enter can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>

May 10-13

Horicon Marsh Bird Festival – Marsh-wide event. Guided birding hikes, bus and boat tours, kids activities, bird banding demos, live birds of prey, and special exhibits. Sponsored by Horicon Marsh Bird Club. For more information, visit: <http://www.horiconmarshbirdfestival.com/birdfestivalevents.cfm>
Horicon Refuge Visitor Center Open Saturday, May 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

May 11

“Ding’s Darling” – (3:00-4:00 p.m.) Who was Ding Darling? What Wisconsin artists have won the federal duck stamp design contest? What’s the key to submitting a winning entry? Join Tim Eisele, outdoor writer and past duck stamp contest judge, to find out more about Ding Darling, the history of the federal duck stamp, and the contest. **Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.** Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off Cty Rd. Z.

May 11

Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Reception – (4:15-5:00 p.m.) Recognition reception for local K-12th grade winners and their families. Open to the public. **Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.** Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off Cty Rd Z.

May 12

Family Hike on the Egret Trail – (10:30-11:30 a.m.) Take a guided hike on the Egret Trail to learn about different types of wildlife and plants often seen during spring followed by a nature game! **Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.** Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour off Hwy 49.

- May 12** [Nature Crafts and Activities](#) – (1:00-3:00 p.m.) Kids make a nature craft for mom for her special day, take part in a scavenger hunt, try on a whooping crane costume or check out the animal pelts touch table. Free. **Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.** Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off Cty Rd. Z.
- June** [Old Marsh Road Open for Hiking/Bicycling](#) – Old Marsh Road open June – August seven days a week. Daylight hours only. Adjacent dikes are closed.
- June 1-2** [Hiking, Bicycling, Fishing Weekend at Horicon Marsh](#) – Marsh-wide.
- [National Trails Day](#) – June 1 (10:00 – 11:00 a.m.) Take a guided hike to celebrate Trails Day. Bring water and sturdy shoes. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour off Hwy 49. Total miles: 1 – easy walking.
- [Tour de Marsh](#) – June 1. Explore the marsh by bicycle or vehicle at your leisure. Rest stops with information and refreshments at various locations throughout. *Horicon Refuge Visitor Center open 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for the day.* Free guided bicycle tour 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. on the refuge auto tour and Old Marsh Road – call 920-387-2658 ext. 24 to sign up.
- [Wisconsin Free Fishing Days](#) – June 1–2. Enjoy fishing at designated areas. No license required.
- July** [Old Marsh Road Open for Hiking/Bicycling](#) – Old Marsh Road open June – August seven days a week. Daylight hours only. Adjacent dikes are closed.
- August** [Old Marsh Road open for Hiking/Bicycling](#) – Old Marsh Road open June – August seven days a week. Daylight hours only. Adjacent dikes are closed.
- September 7-
November 3** [Visitor Center Open Weekends](#) – during fall migration in addition to regular year-round hours (Mon-Fri - 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.)
 Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Sundays: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- September 28** [National Public Lands Volunteer Work Day](#) – (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) *Celebrate National Public Lands Day* by helping refuge staff and volunteers remove invasive plants on the refuge. Long pants, sturdy shoes, and gloves are recommended. All ages welcome – great activity for scout groups. Refreshments provided. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the auto tour off Hwy 49.
- October 5** [Marsh Wildlife Hike](#) – (1:00 – 2:00 p.m.) See pelts and animal artifacts followed by a short hike to learn how best to observe wildlife. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour off Hwy 49.
Total miles: 1 – easy walking.
- October 12** [National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration](#) – (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- [Refuge 5K Run / Walk](#) (**Registration – 9:00 a.m., event – 10:00 a.m.**)
Kick off *National Wildlife Refuge Week* with a morning 5K Run/Walk on the auto tour - <http://www.fonddulacranningclub.com/> for pre-registration information). **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AUTO TOUR WILL BE CLOSED TO VEHICLES UNTIL NOON FOR THIS EVENT.**
- [Activities at the Horicon Refuge Visitor Center](#) (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

***Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.**

October 19

[Basic Birding Hike](#) – (10:00 – 11:00 a.m.) Join Refuge staff to view birds in different habitats. Bring your own binoculars or borrow ours. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour off Hwy 49. Total miles: 1 – easy walking.

October 26

[Birding Old Marsh Road](#) – (9:00 – 10:30 a.m.) Guided opportunity to view birds in an area of the refuge that is only open seasonally. Bring your own binoculars or borrow ours. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour off Hwy 49. Total miles: 1.5 - easy walking.

November 23-
December 1 &
December 12-15

[Auto Tour Closed for Deer Shotgun Seasons](#) – Closed to vehicles. Visitors are still welcome to use the area for hiking and other permissible activities but are required to wear blaze orange.

Dec 1

[Entire Refuge Opens](#) for wildlife observation and nature photography via hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing through March 15.

Dec TBA

[Winter Open House](#) - (10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) Kids activities including music by performer Ken Lonquist, nature crafts, wildlife touch table, nature scavenger hunt, Honker the Blue Goose, snacks, and discounts at the Coot's Corner Bookstore. All activities free to the public. **Sponsored by Friends of Horicon NWR.** Horicon Refuge Visitor Center off of Cty Rd Z.



**Please check our website for up-to-date program information as additional programs may be added during the year*

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/horicon/>
or call Horicon National Wildlife Refuge at
920-387-2658 ext. 24



Horicon NWR website



Friends of Horicon NWR website



<http://www.horiconnwrfriends.org>