

# Public Programs/Events – 2016

## Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (Horicon Marsh)



- February 13 **Winter Wonderland** – (10:00-2:00) Visit the rustic environmental education barn and enjoy crafts, displays, and hot chocolate after snowshoeing, skiing, or hiking on the refuge. Some snowshoes are available for loan. N10755 South Point Rd. (Off Cty Z & H).
- February 20, 27 **Snowshoeing at the EE Barn** – (10:00-2:00) Visit the environmental education barn for snowshoeing or hiking and hot chocolate. Snowshoes will be available for loan. N10755 South Point Rd.
- March 16 **Majority of Refuge Closes** to visitor access for bird migration/nesting seasons. Public use areas (auto tour/trails, Bud Cook Hiking Area, Main Dike Road, fishing accesses, Hwy 49 Viewing Area) remain open year-round for approved recreational activities.
- April 22-25 **Old Marsh Road Open for Hiking/Bicycling** – Hike or bicycle Old Marsh Road Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., in celebration of Earth Day.
- April 23 **Earth Day Celebration!** – Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd Z).
- **Live Critters with Dave Stokes!** – (1:00-2:00) Get hands on with live reptiles and amphibians.
  - **Kids Craft: Recycled Musical Instruments** – (2:30-3:30) Make a musical instrument out of recycled materials and join in a sing-a-long. Materials provided.
- May 2-27 **Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Exhibit** – On display at the Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd Z). See youth artwork from the 2016 contest. <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/>
- SPECIAL EXHIBIT!**
- May 6-9 **Horicon Marsh Bird Festival** – Marsh-wide event. Guided birding hikes, bus and boat tours, kid's activities, bird banding demos, and special exhibits. Sponsored by Horicon Marsh Bird Club. For more information, visit: <http://www.horiconmarshbirdclub.com/>  
**\*Horicon Refuge Visitor Center Open Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for this event.**
- May 7 **Wetland Water Bugs** – (11:00-12:00) For young explorers of all ages. Scoop water bugs from the marsh and learn about their adaptations for survival. Meet at Egret Trail floating boardwalk off auto tour off Hwy 49.
- May 7 **Tom Tyers Wood Carving Demonstration** – (12:00-3:00) From award winning decoys to life-like feathers, renowned wood carver Tom Tyers has been creating carved masterpieces for most of his life. Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd. Z).
- May 7 **Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest Reception** – (4:15-5:00) Awards reception for WI K-12<sup>th</sup> grade winners. Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd Z).
- May 14 **Wildflowers for Wildlife** – (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) Native plant sale, displays and more at DNR Education Center on Hwy 28. **Native landscape demonstration tours given at the Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Z) between 11:00 – 1:00.** Visit <http://www.horiconmarsh.org/> for more info and plant presale order form. Jointly sponsored by Friends of Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center.

June

**Old Marsh Road Open for Hiking/Bicycling** –

Old Marsh Road open June – August seven days a week.

June 4-5

**Hiking, Bicycling, Fishing Weekend at Horicon Marsh** – Marsh-wide.

- **Discovery Trail Hike** – June 4. (1:00-2:00) Explore the new Sense of Wonder Discovery Trail with a guide. Fun activities for kids along the way. ½ mile - easy walking. Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd Z).
- **Tour de Marsh** – June 4. Marsh-wide event. Explore the marsh by bicycle or vehicle at your leisure. Rest stops with information at various locations.
- **Family Bicycle Tours** – Pedal portions of the refuge with a guide. Meet at Main Parking lot of refuge auto tour (Hwy 49). Two one-hour tours offered: 9:00-10:00 and 10:30-11:30.
- **Wisconsin Free Fishing Days** – June 4-5. Designated areas. No license required.

July, August

**Old Marsh Road Open for Hiking/Bicycling** –

Old Marsh Road open June – August seven days a week.

September 24

**National Public Lands Day – Seed Collection** – (10:00–11:00)

Celebrate *National Public Lands Day* by helping to collect native prairie seed. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour (Hwy 49). **Native landscape tours will also be given between 11:30 – 1:30 at the Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Z).**

October 8

**National Wildlife Refuge Week Celebration** –

- **Refuge 5K Run /Walk for Wildlife** – (9:00–11:30) For pre-registration information: <http://www.fonddulacrunningclub.com/>
- **Horicon National Wildlife Refuge 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House** (12:00–4:00) Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd Z).

October 29

**Birding Old Marsh Road** – (9:00–10:30) Guided hike to view birds in an area of the

refuge that is only open seasonally. ½ mile - easy walking. Meet at the Egret Trail boardwalk parking lot off of the refuge auto tour off Hwy 49.

November 12

**Autumn Open House** – (10:00 -3:30) Musical performances by children's artists Ken

Lonnquist and Dave Adler at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; nature crafts; and holiday discounts at the Coot's Corner Gift Shop. Horicon Refuge Visitor Center (Cty Rd Z).

November

19-27 &

December

TBA

**Auto Tour Closed for Deer Gun 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.



**For more information:**  
 Erin Railsback at 920-387-2658 x124 or [erin\\_railsback@fws.gov](mailto:erin_railsback@fws.gov)

**Visitor Center Hours**  
*Jan-Mar & Dec:*  
 Monday-Friday 9a.m.- 4p.m. + 1 Sat/month  
 2016: Jan 16, Feb 13, Mar 19, Dec 3

*Apr-Nov: (Peak visitor season)*  
 Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. (+ Sun. in Oct.)  
 2016: Open July 4, Labor and Columbus Days  
 (\*Closed all other federal holidays\*)

**\*Programs and activities are FREE.**

