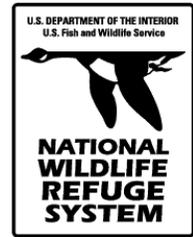


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Join Us for Free, Fun Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **June, 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 75 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

Held on the following days: Saturday, June 6th @9:30 am; Sunday, June 7th @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, June 14th @1:00 pm; Tuesday, June 16th @1:00 pm; Sunday, June 21st @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, June 27th @9:30 am; Sunday, June 28th @1:00 pm; and Tuesday, June 30th @9:30 am.

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.***

NEW! Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Friday, June 5th AND Wednesday, June 17th – both programs 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 and learn 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. **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.htm

Whip-poor-will Walk

Saturday, June 6th @ 7:30 pm

Have you ever heard a strange bird singing in the background of a movie and wondered what it was? You may have been listening to the song of the Whip-poor-will. Join Nancy Landry, refuge volunteer and avid birder, for an evening of listening for the song of the Whip-poor-will and other birds of the nighttime. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Meet the program leader on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. Bring binoculars and a flashlight.

Program is appropriate for older children and adults. Limited to 15 participants. **Preregistration required**

Behind the Scenes for BIRDERS!

Sunday, June 7th from 7:30 – 9:00 am

Join refuge volunteer and birder-extraordinaire Sue McGrath for a very special edition of our Behind the Scenes tour. Get a chance to see and learn about birds in their habitats on areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. Bring your binoculars and field guides. The tour is limited to 13 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. Meet the tour leader in the lobby of the refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time.

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.

Plover Lovers Program

Friday, June 12th @ 10:00am

Want to learn more about Plum Island's federally threatened bird species? Join Sandy Point's park interpreter and the refuge's plover biologist as they take you on an excursion to see the newly hatched piping plover chicks! This program is open to all age groups – kids too! Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended to get the most out of your experience. This program will last approximately one hour. Meet at the farther parking lot at Sandy Point. Parking at Sandy Point is very limited. Arriving early is strongly recommended for access to the program. Program limited

to 15 people. Preregistration is required. To preregister, please call the Taylor Beaton at (617) 372-6730.

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 13th @ 1:30 pm

Skip Hoyt, MNEC and Brenda Driscoll will regale you with a program about their epic photographic adventures in Alaska. Their presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. Skip and Brenda are both very active with the Greater Lynn Photographic Society. We will also project June's *Show & Share* slide show, featuring photo club members' very fine images of spring flowers, on the auditorium's big screen. We may have a few other surprises in store, as well.

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 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 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required**.

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Monday, June 15th @ 9:30 am AND Tuesday, June 30th @9:30 am

There is no better way to see and experience the refuge's salt marsh than from the cockpit of your own kayak! Join a couple of refuge rangers for a three hour meander through the marsh and learn about some of its fascinating natural and cultural history. Program participants should have kayaking experience and need to provide their own kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device. Participant boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length and have onboard flotation. It is recommended that participants provide their own insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snack food, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Meet the rangers at the refuge's boat ramp, opposite Lot 1, fifteen minutes prior to the program start time. Enrollment limited to 12 participants.

Preregistration required.

NEW EVENT!: Let's Go Outside!

Saturday, June 20th, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Mark your calendars! This is a new, FREE and very cool event for the whole family. Spend all or part of a day outside at the refuge while trying out a whole bunch of fun, healthy activities including archery target shooting, kayaking, surf fishing, nature photography, and bird watching. There will also be a variety of nature-based crafts and activities for younger kids. While event "activity stations" will be located both at the visitor center and on the national wildlife refuge, we recommend that you begin your event experience at the visitor center. Complete all activity stations and earn a Junior Refuge Manager badge! Activity stations will run continuously throughout the day. Free shuttle buses will provide transportation to the different venues. This event will take place rain or shine. **NO preregistration for this event.**

Tide Pool Discoveries

Tuesday, June 23rd @11:00 am

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is 90 minutes long, allowing time for travel to and from the beach. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

NEW! – Exploring Great Bay NWR by Bicycle

Wednesday, June 24th, from 9:30 – Noon

Join a refuge ranger for a **behind the scenes tour, by bicycle**, 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 habitats and learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel over generally level terrain on a combination of paved and unpaved. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a either a hybrid or mountain bike, helmet, and water bottle.** Insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera are optional (provided these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger in the Great Bay NWR parking lot 15 minutes before the tour start time. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

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

NEW! – Refuge Bicycle Tours

Friday, June 26th @ 9:00 am

Experience the refuge from the unique perspective of your very own bicycle! Starting at the visitor contact station at Lot 1, the ranger-led group will gradually make its way south along the paved portion of the refuge's Wildlife Drive, stopping at various points along the way to view wildlife, hear stories of Plum Island's past, and learn about the inner workings of a national wildlife refuge. This is an "out and back" tour. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a bicycle, helmet, and water bottle.** Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Participants may also wish to bring insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera (if these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration 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.