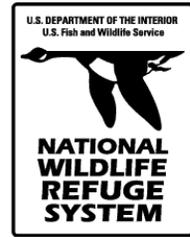


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **January, 2016**



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, January 2nd @ 9:30 am; Sunday, January 3rd @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, January 10th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, January 16th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, January 17th @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, January 24th @ 1:00 pm and Saturday, January 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. Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.

NEW! FREE! Kids' Conservation Cinema

On alternating Sunday afternoons through March, the refuge will be screening FREE, family-friendly films that feature a wildlife and/or environmental theme. All films will be projected on the big screen in the refuge visitor center's awesome auditorium. **No preregistration; simply show up!** All movies begin at 1:30 pm. Here is what we have scheduled for the month of January:

Sunday, January 10th at 1:30 pm: *The March of The Penguins*: Every year, thousands of emperor penguins make an astonishing journey to breed their young. They are birds, but they do not fly. They are aquatic animals, but this time they will not swim. Instead, they walk -- marching day and night in single file 70 miles into the darkest, driest and coldest continent on earth. Narrated by Morgan Freeman, *March of the Penguins* is an amazing, awe-inspiring, all ages, true-life tale touched with humor and alive with thrills. Breathtaking photography captures the transcendent beauty and staggering you-are-there drama of devoted parent penguins who, in the face of the fierce polar winter, take turns guarding their egg and trekking to the ocean in search of food. Predators hunt them, storms lash them. But the safety of the adorable, fuzzy chicks makes it all worthwhile. So follow the leader ... to adventure! (2005; rated G; run time: 80 min.)

Sunday, January 24th at 1:30 pm: *Charlotte's Web*: Wilbur the pig is scared of the end of the season, because he knows that come that time, he will end up on the dinner table. He hatches a plan with Charlotte, a spider that lives in his pen, to ensure that this will never happen. (2006; rated G; run time 96 min.)

NEW! Kids' Story Hour

Monday, January 11th at 10:00 am and Monday, January 25th at 10:00 am

Bring your 3-5 year old youngster to the refuge visitor center for a good old-fashioned story hour. For each session, a refuge volunteer will read a story about an animal or some other interesting aspect of nature. The kids will then complete a related craft to take home. Enrollment is limited to 12 children. The parent or guardian must remain for the entire program. **Preregistration is required for this program.**

Special Free Photographic Presentation:

Wild America: My Favorite Places in the United States

Saturday, January 9th @ 1:30 pm

Professional nature photographer John Slonina will present a program called "Wild America: My Favorite Places in the United States." His presentation will cover some of the best locations in the United States for seeing and photographing incredible landscapes and wildlife. The program covers several locations like New England, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Minnesota, Alaska, Florida, Everglades, Big Cypress, Washington State, Acadia, White Mountain National Forest, and Maine.

This free public program will occur during the regular monthly meeting of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR. The 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. The program will take place in the refuge visitor center's auditorium. Capacity is limited to 85 attendees (first-come, first-served). **Admission is free and preregistration is NOT required.**

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Wednesday, January 13th and Wednesday, January 27th - both programs held 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 while learning 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. This guided program is most appropriate for older teens.

and adults. 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.html

Learn About Snowy Owl Conservation:

A Special Presentation by Norman Smith of Massachusetts Audubon

Saturday, January 16th at 1:30 pm

As birders and nature photographers already know, snowy owls are often seen in this region during the winter months. But where do these magnificent animals come from? And why is their seasonal occurrence so variable from year to year? And what to do about the “snowies” that are attracted to the tundra-like landscape that surrounds the runways at Logan International Airport? These compelling questions, and many more, will be addressed by Massachusetts Audubon’s Norman Smith, who will present a narrated slide presentation in the refuge visitor center auditorium on Saturday, January 16th beginning at 1:30 pm. Smith has been heading up the effort to trap and relocate snowy owls from Logan for many years. In the process of that work, he has also tagged and tracked many of these owls. He’ll share what he has learned during this very special presentation. This program will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium, where capacity is limited to 85 attendees (first-come, first-served).

Preregistration is not required for this free public program.

Making Tracks: Learning to Read Wildlife Clues

Sunday, January 17th, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

If you have ever seen tracks in the snow, sand, or soil and were curious about what made them, then this is the program for you! Refuge staff will lead you through the basics of identifying common animals through the clues that they leave behind. A brief introduction to animal tracks and other sign in the visitor center classroom will be followed by a trip to the refuge where we will look for tracks and attempt to determine their owner’s identity. This is a program for beginners, so parents are encouraged to bring their children 10 and older. Please dress appropriately for cold and damp weather. Meet in the lobby of the visitor center ten minutes prior to the program start time. **Preregistration IS required**, as the program is limited to 10 people.

NEW! Monthly Book Club:

January’s Book Selection: *The Edge of the Sea* by Rachel Carson

Thursday, Jan. 21st from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, and on Saturday, Jan. 23rd from 1:30 – 3:30pm

Discussion groups will meet on Thursday, Jan. 21st from 6:30 – 8:30pm, and on Saturday, Jan. 23rd from 1:30 – 3:30pm. Discussions are limited to 15 participants and will take place at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. **Pre-registration IS required for all meetings. Please call our headquarters at (978) 465-5753 to register. *Note: Those who call and leave a message after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member.**

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.