



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* July, 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, July 4th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, July 5th @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, July 12th @ 1:00 pm; Tuesday, July 14th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, July 18th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, July 19th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, July 25th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, July 26th @ 1:00 pm; and Tuesday, July 28th @ 1:00 pm

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 8 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.***

-continued-

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

Wednesday, July 8th AND Wednesday, July 22nd – 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. **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

Tide Pool Discoveries

Friday, July 10th @12:30 pm; Monday, July 20th @9:00 am; and Monday, July 27th @2:00 pm

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 approximately 2 hours long, allowing time for travel to and from the tide pool location. 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.**

Refuge Bicycle Tour (at Parker River)

Friday, July 17th AND Friday, July 31st – both from 9:00 – 11:00 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.** 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.**

NEW! – Exploring Great Bay NWR by Bicycle

Wednesday, July 29th, from 9:30 am – 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 while learning how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel approximately 5.3 miles over surfaces that are variously paved and unpaved. The terrain is generally level with a few gradual hills. The average recreational cyclist would rate the tour route

as moderate on a difficulty scale. 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](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.htm)

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. Susana Bamford is July's Artist of the Month. She is primarily an oil painter who enjoys the challenge of painting on location (plein air). Her impressions of various landscapes often include manmade structures within a natural environment. She is intrigued by the solid forms constructed by man which exist within the larger context of nature's varied shapes, colors, and light effects. Through her representational-impressionistic style, Susana attempts to render as accurately as possible the colors she sees with their light and shadow contrasts.

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.