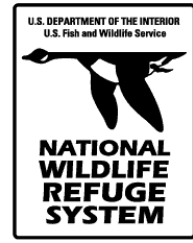


Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

July, 2018



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.

Tide Pool Discoveries

Friday, July 6th @ noon; Monday, July 16th @ 9:00 a.m.; Friday, July 20th @ 12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, July 31st @ 9:00 a.m.

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.**

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR

Held on the following days: Saturday, July 7th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, July 8th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 14th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, July 15th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 21st @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, July 22nd @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 28th @ 9:30 a.m.; and Sunday, July 29th @ 1:00 p.m.

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. **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.

Evening Program: Sand in My Wetsuit: Adventures of a Maritime Archaeologist Above and Below the Sea...as told by Captain Laurel Seaborn

Thursday, July 12th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Ever wonder what it takes to work in shipwreck archaeology? Perhaps you want to know more about the challenges of diving for science? Maybe you just want to know about pirate ships and raising cannons? Captain Seaborn will speak about this and more, divulging the gritty details of working on wrecks from a small Colonial boat here in Massachusetts to a massive 17th century, Swedish royal warship. Whether underwater or on shore, shipwrecks have much to tell us about past people and cultures.

Captain Laurel Seaborn has sailed tall ships representing different historical periods and worked on underwater archaeological diving excavations of the pirate Blackbeard's ship *Queen Anne's Revenge* in Beaufort, NC and Captain Kidd's ship, *Cara Merchant*, off the shore of the Dominican Republic. Captain Seaborn's research interests took her to Stockholm, Sweden to record the hull shape of the ship *Vasa*, now in a museum after being raised from the ocean floor, and to investigate a local Chebacco boat at Wingaersheek Beach. She now runs the nonprofit organization SEAMAHP (Seafaring Education and Maritime Archaeological Heritage Program) that focuses on experiential learning - hands-on training - in maritime archaeology. Together with her team, she has led field schools for local students to research the wrecked schooner *Ada K. Damon* at Crane's beach. She is also working on a book on Seafaring Women of the 19th Century.

Spaces in the refuge's 85-seat auditorium will be filled on a first come, first served basis. This free evening program is sponsored by the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and the Parker River NWR. **NO preregistration for this program.**

NEW! - Bicycle Tour of Great Bay NWR

Friday, July 13th & Monday, July 23rd; both sessions 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

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 surfaces. 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

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Monday, July 16th and Friday, July 27th; both sessions 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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 8 participants; no more than 2 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.) 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

What Do We Know About Whales?

Tuesday, July 17th, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

During this fun, hands-on program we will learn all about whales. We will use different tools to help us understand how big adult whales get. Each participant will choose their own special whale. After coloring-in their whale, they will place it on the particular ocean it calls home. There will be a fun activity for each child to make and take home. "Friends of Whales" certificates will be given out at the end of the program. This program is appropriate for home-schooled and other children in grades K-3. Parent or adult chaperone must stay with their child during the program. Children and accompanying adults will find themselves joining in the fun activities. This program is limited to 10 children. Meet the program leader in the visitor center classroom. A portion of this program will take place outdoors; please be sure to dress for the weather. **Preregistration is required for this program.**

Family Monarch Butterfly Conservation Program!

Saturday, July 21st, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Join Katie Hone, *The Monarch Gardener*, for a fun and hands-on program that will focus on the charismatic monarch butterfly and its fascinating life cycle. Meet live monarch caterpillars. Make a common milkweed "seed bomb" to take home and start your very own monarch habitat. Visit the refuge's butterfly garden to see milkweed and to look for monarch eggs. Meet in the refuge visitor center classroom. **NO Preregistration for this program.**

Great Bay Shoreline Cleanup

Saturday, July 28th, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

With the help of community volunteers, we can keep our bay clean. Volunteers will be guided by USFWS personnel to closed areas of the refuge where they will remove garbage and debris from the shoreline. Let's promote clean water and a healthy environment for wildlife and people! Groups and families are welcome. We advise wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, and sturdy boots. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, a light snack and water. Supplies provided include trash bags, gloves, and data tracking sheets. Meet at the parking lot at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. **Sign up online at:** <https://naturegroupie.org>.

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.