



## Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **March, 2014**

### **REGISTRATION**

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and also insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/) or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA. **Please note: If a program requires pre-registration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.**

### **“Up Close and Personal” Refuge Tour**

***Held on the following days: Saturday, March 8 @9:30 am; Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @1:00 pm; Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> @9:30 am; Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @9:30 am; Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @9:30 am; Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @1:00 pm; Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @1:00 pm; Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> @1:00 pm***

Join a refuge ranger for an “up close and personal” tour of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will provide an “insider’s” perspective of 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. 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.***

### **Woodcock Walk**

***Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>; Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>; & Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>; 6:00 pm start time***

Each spring American woodcocks engage in one of nature’s most fascinating courtship displays. Here’s your chance to witness this “sky dance” up close and in-person! This program is appropriate for ages 8 and older. Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. Bring binoculars. Limited to 15 participants. **Preregistration required.**

## **Making Tracks: Learning to Read Wildlife Clues**

***Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 – 11:30 am***

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 sign in the visitor contact station will be followed by time spent outdoors on 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 the ranger at the visitor contact station (located on the refuge at Lot 1) ten minutes prior to the program start time. **Preregistration is required as the program is limited to 10 participants.**

## **Volunteer Plover Warden Orientation**

***Sessions will be held twice: Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 am and Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 am***

Do you enjoy speaking with the public, helping wildlife, and spending time on the beach? This orientation will teach you about the piping plover, as well as provide an overview of what it means to serve as a volunteer Plover Warden. Plover Wardens make a significant contribution to the success of the refuge's piping plover conservation efforts. As of April 1<sup>st</sup> most of the refuge beach is closed to all public entry in order to provide undisturbed habitat for this federally threatened species. Plover Wardens are stationed at the north and south ends of the refuge's six mile long ocean beach, as well as on the west side of Sandy Point State Reservation (this is an interpretive position). Plover Wardens greet refuge visitors, informally interpret the refuge's plover management efforts and notify staff of closure violations. Participants in this session will hear from and be able to ask questions of refuge staff that specialize in biology, law enforcement and visitor services. Attending the session does not obligate you to volunteer. Meet in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.**