



## Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **March, 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/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/) or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

### **NEW! Refuge Family Cinema – FREE Movies for Kids and Families**

- **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> @ 1:30 pm: *Dr. Suess' The Lorax***
- **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm: *Fern Gully - The Last Rain Forest***
- **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm: *Spirit - Stallion of the Cimarron***

Spend a cold winter afternoon watching a great **FREE** film on the big screen in the comfort of the visitor center auditorium. These are great, entertaining family films with environmental themes. The Friends of Parker NWR will even provide popcorn and bottled water (for a suggested donation). **No preregistration for these programs. Auditorium seating is limited to the first 75 people who show up!**

### **NEW! American Conservation Film Festival – NORTH**

***Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>***

The American Conservation Film Festival – NORTH is coming to Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The festival will take place the weekend of March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at the refuge's visitor center and headquarters complex in Newburyport. A diverse selection of award-winning, conservation-related films from across the world will be presented on the big screen in the visitor center auditorium. The festival will begin on Friday evening and extend through late Sunday afternoon.

Films to be screened during the festival focus on a broad range of local, national and international conservation topics. *Chasing Ice* presents dramatic visual evidence of the melting of the far northern glaciers and compellingly focuses attention on climate change and sea level rise. *From Billions to None* chronicles the extinction of the passenger pigeon – a wild species once so abundant that it could almost “darken the sky” with its great numbers. *Flight of the Butterflies*, originally produced as an IMAX film, provides a rare window into the amazing life and transcontinental migration of the monarch butterfly. A spellbinding exploration of the biodiversity of an African fig is artfully presented in *The Queen of Trees*. These and many other films to be screened during the film festival collectively comprise a powerful cinematic journey through many of the important conservation issues and topics of our time.

A very special festival program will take place on Saturday evening, March 7, with the premiere of a new documentary about legendary conservationist Rachel Carson. Carson, who worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a time, and had a fondness for national wildlife refuges, authored an interpretive publication about Parker River in 1947. The new film – *The Power of One Voice: A 50 Year Perspective on the Life of Rachel Carson* – will be introduced by Dr. Patricia DeMarco, former Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association and a nationally renowned Carson scholar. All film festival screenings are FREE and open to the public. **No preregistration for this event. Auditorium seating is limited to the first 75 people who show up! Please consult the refuge homepage for a complete film schedule: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker\\_river/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/).**

## **The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

***Next Meeting: Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm***

The 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.**

## **Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour**

***Held on the following days: Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @9:30 am; Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> @1:00 pm; Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 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.***

### **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 them, is produced each month.