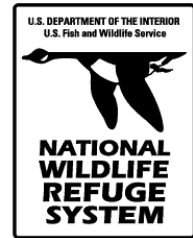


Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

March, 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.

Fourth Annual Conservation Film Festival!

Friday evening, March 2nd thru Sunday afternoon, March 4th

The refuge's fourth annual Conservation Film Festival is primed and ready to go for the first weekend in March. And it's all FREE! Films that will be screened during the festival focus on a broad range of local, national and international conservation topics. **All film screenings are FREE and will take place in the refuge visitor center's comfortable, 85 seat auditorium (filled on a first come, first served basis).**

A complete film festival schedule is available on the refuge web site:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/. For further information, please contact the refuge at (978) 465-5753.

****Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR**

Held on the following days: Saturday, March 10th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, March 11th @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 17th @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, March 24th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, March 25th @ 1:00 p.m.; and Saturday, March 31st @ 9:30 a.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. 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. ****Please note: When snow and ice prevents access to the regular "behind the scenes" segments of the tour, the tour leader will, instead, include a loop to the northern end of Plum Island.**

From Soup to Nuts: Taking Fine Art Photos with Your Smart Phone!

Saturday, March 10th, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

You may not know it, but that smart phone that you carry around in your pocket is a great camera, capable of taking photos that you'd be proud to print, frame and hang on your living room. "But wait," you say, "my images never look good enough for that!" Well here's your chance to move from snapshots to great shots! In this decidedly hands-on program, Ranger Poole will provide all the tips and tools necessary for you to create your own wall art. Bring your smart phone to this session and see just how easy it is to create a masterpiece! Meet in the refuge visitor center classroom. **NO preregistration for this program.**

Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 10th @ 1:30 p.m.

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 85 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

Plover Warden Orientation

Saturday, March 17th, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Interested in being a plover warden, or, just volunteering? Learn about the piping plovers on the national wildlife refuge and how you can help them by being a plover warden. This no obligation orientation will take you through the plover recovery program at Parker River and give you an idea about how you can help through volunteering. This program will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **No preregistration.**

Climate Café

Saturday, March 17th, 1:00 – 2:30pm

What do environmental citizenship, rising sea levels and saltmarsh sparrows have in common? Join us for a 'conversation that matters' and find out what you can do to protect the residents (human and non-human) of The Great Marsh. *Climate Cafés* are community conversations about local environmental issues, hosted by the Newburyport Gulf of Maine Institute (GOMI) team and area high school students. More than 500 people have participated in *Cafés* during the past year. We hope you can join us! This program will take place at the refuge visitor center. For more information: shari.melto@gmail.com. **No preregistration for this program.**

Family Cinema: Moana

Sunday, March 18th, 1:30 pm

An adventurous teenager sails out on a daring mission to save her people. During her journey, Moana meets the once-mighty demigod Maui, who guides her in her quest to become a master way-finder. Together they sail across the open ocean on an action-packed voyage, encountering enormous monsters and impossible odds. Along the way, Moana fulfills the ancient quest of her ancestors and discovers the one thing she always sought: her own identity. Enjoy the benefits of our new laser projector and surround sound system in the visitor center auditorium. (Rated PG; Runtime: 1 hr, 53 mins.) **NO preregistration for this program.**

Algonquians on the Parker River and Plum Island

Monday, March 19th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Native Americans depended on the resource-rich environment of the Parker River watershed and Plum Island around the time of European contact. Their livelihoods were organized seasonally, focusing on local plant and animal subsistence resources and economic activities for spring, summer, fall, and winter. The people—Abenaki-speaking Pawtucket-Pennacook with roots in New Hampshire—had a permanent agricultural village at Quascacunquen (Kwaskwikikwen), near Indian Hill in West Newbury. How they managed to thrive is a story of ingenuity, resilience, and intimate knowledge of their environment.

Local historian Mary Ellen Lepionka will share her knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, this most interesting topic. She is a publisher, author, editor, textbook developer, and college instructor with a Master's degree in anthropology from Boston University and post-graduate work at the University of British Columbia. Since 2008 she has researched the findings and available information in our local area of the Native American people who lived here. She is a trustee and member of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. The program will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. This free public program is sponsored by the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Parker River NWR. **NO preregistration for this program.**

****Focus on Birds: Special Behind the Scenes Tour of Parker River NWR**

Tuesday, March 20th, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

This special edition of the refuge's Behind the Scenes (BTS) tour will be led by veteran birder, and refuge volunteer, Bill Gette. While the tour will follow the usual BTS route, the leader will place a special emphasis on the birds that are typically found on the refuge in late fall. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, if they have them. Tour is limited to 14 participants. Meet the tour leader in the refuge visitor center lobby 15 minutes before the program start time. This program is most appropriate for teens and adults. **Preregistration required.** ****Please note: When snow and ice prevents access to the regular "behind the scenes" segments of the refuge tour, the tour leader will, instead, take the group to other locations on the island and mainland where birds are more likely to be seen.**

Woodcock Walk at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, March 24th & Thursday, March 29th; each program begins at 6:45 p.m.

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 in front of the Great Bay office, just opposite the parking lot at 6:45 p.m. (Arriving a few minutes early is always a good thing!) Bring a flashlight and binoculars, if you have them. Program is limited to 15 participants and will last about one hour. **Preregistration required.** (Directions: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html)

Wind, Weather, and Snow, Oh My!

Sunday, March 25th, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Why do we have seasons? Why is it hotter in summer and colder in winter? What is wind? How is it measured? How do clouds form? Where do snowflakes come from and why do they fall to Earth? Join us for fun, interactive learning activities to answer these questions about wind, weather, and snow. Learn how to make your own weather vane. Be a snowflake engineer (with the help of toothpicks and marshmallows) and take your tasty construction home! This program is for family participation: children 5 years of age or older with parents, grandparents, or caregivers. Adults must stay with children. Please dress appropriately for an outdoor excursion as part of the program. **Preregistration is required for this program.**

What Do We Know About Whales?

Monday, March 26th, 10:00 – 11:30 a.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 15 children. Meet the program leader in the visitor center classroom. **Preregistration is required for this program.**

Providence Raptors: Urban Wildlife Photography

Saturday, March 31st, noon to 1:30 p.m.

Program presenter Peter Green is a photographer and graphic designer living and working in downtown Providence. He walks the city, documenting peregrine falcons and more urban wildlife from red-tailed hawks nesting on rooftops to American kestrels hunting in graffiti-covered alleys. These regal, powerful raptors seem perfectly at home among the landscape of bricks and concrete. His photographs and stories provide a fascinating description of the birds of prey that are thriving in our urban environments, where tall buildings have replaced rocky cliffs and a ready supply of prey are found in the midst of our urban crowds. The program will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium. This free public program is sponsored by the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Parker River NWR. **NO preregistration 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 theme, is produced each month.