

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

### **Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!**

*Held on the following days: Friday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>; Saturday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>; Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>; Monday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>; ALL programs are 9:00 a.m. to 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](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html)

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

*Held on the following days: Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.; Friday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 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. **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.

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

***Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>; both sessions 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 the 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.**

## **Photographic Society of Parker River NWR**

***Next Meeting: Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> @ 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 other 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.

The agenda for the November meeting will include an introduction to low-light photography, a type of image-making that has become very popular in the last several years. Think about all of those images of cascading streams with "silky" water, ethereal cloud formations, and flat/calm ocean water. Ranger Poole will provide his tips and techniques! The meeting will also include a short video about National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore's and his "Ark" project – a conservation legacy project in which Joel seeks to record images of thousands of endangered animals from around the world. All Photo Society meetings take place in the refuge visitor center's 85 seat auditorium. Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

## **Evening Program: Birding on Plum Island**

***November 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.***

To see any given species of bird in Massachusetts, there may be a better place to find it than Plum Island, but if you want to see the largest variety of birds, on any given day of any given month within Massachusetts, you could not find a better place than Plum Island. The number of birds seen on Plum Island is well over 360 species. Plum Island truly is one of the premier birding locations in the northeastern United States.

Tom Wetmore moved to Newburyport in 1972, and has been birding on Plum Island for more than 35 years. He has studied the annual cycles of the island's birdlife and watched it change. For the past 16 years, he has been recording those cycles by collecting data that he posts to a web site devoted to Plum Island birds. Tom is a retired software geek who spent a long career at Bell Labs and communications startups. Earlier in his career, he spent six years in Alaska and Alberta where he conducted field research usually involving birds.

Tom's talk will cover many topics about the birds and birding on Plum Island. The photographs shown during the talk were all taken on Plum Island by many of Tom's birding friends. As visitors are taking their seats before the talk, a slide show prepared by Nancy Landry will be showing on the screen. 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.**

## **Nelson Island Tour**

***Monday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.***

Explore another part of the refuge – this time, on the mainland. Join a ranger for a tour of a beautiful spot that few people visit: Nelson Island. Learn about the history of this little known refuge jewel. If weather and tide permits, we will take a very short walk along the marsh. (Muddy, wet areas are possible so rubber boots are recommended.) Consider bringing binoculars and/or a camera. \*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. **Preregistration is required.**

### **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.