



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

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/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturday, Oct. 4th @9:30 am; Tuesday, Oct. 7th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Oct. 12th @1:00 pm; Wednesday, Oct. 15th @ 9:30 am; Friday, Oct. 24th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, Oct. 25th @9:30 am; Sunday, Oct. 26th @1:00 pm; Tuesday, Oct. 28th @ 9:30 am; and Friday, Oct. 31st @ 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.**

Phabulous Photo Weekend!

Friday, October 17th thru Sunday, October 19th

This event is a weekend-long celebration of all things nature and wildlife photography-related! There will be presentations, workshops, an exhibition of this year's photo contest entries and opportunities to check out the latest in photo gear. Event programs will be occurring at both the refuge visitor center and on the refuge itself. See specific program descriptions below. **Note that some workshops have limited capacity and require preregistration.** Call the refuge at (978) 465-5753 to register for these programs. Please also note

that all other programs will be filled on a first come, first-served basis as the visitor center auditorium has a limited capacity. Phabulous Photo Weekend is co-sponsored by the refuge, its Photographic Society, and Hunt's Photo.

Friday, October 17th

7:00 pm: Nature's Paradise: Costa Rica; a narrated slide program by photographer Douglas Goodell. This program will highlight some of the natural wonders, diversity, beauty, and contrasts of Costa Rica. This small country is a paradise for nature lovers and biologists, and for photographers. I will illustrate how the mountains and volcanoes separating the coastal areas lead to microclimates ranging from very wet to very dry, and from tropical to sub-alpine, and some of the flora and fauna characteristic of each. The program is not a recitation of species, but is a narrative of some of the findings and experiences encountered in the preparation of the related, photo-based book. Location: refuge visitor center

9:00 – 10:30 pm: Hands-on Night Shoot: Join professional nature photographer Roman Kurywczak, a Sigma Pro, as he leads an in-the-field workshop on photographing the nighttime sky. This hands-on workshop will begin in the auditorium, where you will set up your gear. Roman will help you test your gear and find the focus point on your lens. After the setup, Roman will lead you outside to do some night shooting of your very own! If conditions are rainy or too overcast, this workshop will be cancelled. You should bring a fully charged DSLR with memory card and a sturdy tripod. A lens in the range of 10-24mm and an f/stop or 4.5 or faster is recommended. A cable release and bubble level are some good accessories to bring but not required. Don't forget to bring a small flashlight or headlamp to help you get around at night! Limited to 20 participants. **By preregistration only.** Program begins in the auditorium and will continue on the refuge. Location: visitor center and then continues on the refuge.

Saturday, October 18th

6:30 am: Sunrise Photo Shoot: Meet near the entrance to the boardwalk at Parking Lot 1. Tripods recommended but not required. No preregistration required. Location: on the refuge

10:00 am – Noon: Raptor Photo Shoot!: Staff and volunteers from the Center for Wildlife will be on hand with several of their non-releasable birds of prey to provide event participants with an opportunity to photograph these magnificent birds at close range. Three 30 minute photo sessions will be offered, with a maximum of 10 photographers per session. \$20 registration fee. Fees collected go to support the Center's ongoing work. **By preregistration only.** Location: refuge visitor center

11:30 am – 12:30 pm: See Yourself in Print – Self Publishing Your Own Photo Book; a presentation by photographer Douglas Goodell. A coffee table photo book provides a great way to present your images – whether it's a travel book, wedding album, family or baby record, or a portfolio. In recent years the popularity and accessibility of this type of publication has mushroomed. There are now so many options for vendors, software, and book designs that the choices can be confusing. This program examines the choices and important parameters to consider, and shows the results you can expect. And, the results will make you want to see yourself in print! Location: refuge visitor center

2:00 – 2:45 pm: What's New at Nikon?: Join Bob Watts, of Nikon USA, for an "up close and personal" look at Nikon's "latest and greatest" camera and lens gear. Nikon's camera and lens lineup has become quite large – and with new technologies and designs, many new images will be able to be created. Bob will have a full range of gear to show and talk about during this session. Location: refuge visitor center

3:00 – 4:00 pm: Landscapes and Nature of the Swiss Alps; Join photographer Benjamin Grunow for a narrated slide show about his various photographic adventures in the Swiss Alps. The presentation will include a diversity of images including sweeping landscapes, unique natural features, the night sky, and edelweiss – an increasingly rare plant. Ben will also be discussing how he employs auto bracketing and high dynamic range techniques to create some of his compelling images of nature. Location: refuge visitor center

4:00 – 6:00 pm: Field Workshop: Photographing Birds; Join photographer Roman Kurywczak in the field for a hands-on workshop about how to photograph birds in the wild. Meet on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot. **By preregistration only;** limited to 30 participants. Location: on the refuge

7:00 – 8:30 pm: Photographing the Nighttime Landscape; Join photographer Roman Kurywczak for an educational how-to program designed to open up your eyes to the possibility of photographing landscapes with the star filled sky as a backdrop. Equipment, tips, techniques, and camera setting for both star points and star trails will be covered. We will also explore “light painting” of a foreground subject as well as overcoming obstacles when the conditions are less than ideal. Location: refuge visitor center

9:00 – 10:00 pm: Field Workshop: Astrophotography 101; Join photographer Benjamin Grunow for a field introduction to shooting stars at night. Participants will need a DSLR (with a manual mode setting; capable of ISO 800 and a 30 second exposure minimum), lens with an aperture setting of f4 or better, and a tripod. **By preregistration only;** limited to 30 participants. Location: on the refuge

9:00 – 10:30 pm: Field Workshop: Hands-on Night Shoot: Join professional nature photographer Roman Kurywczak, a Sigma Pro, as he leads an in-the-field workshop on photographing the nighttime sky. This hands-on workshop will begin in the auditorium, where you will set up your gear. Roman will help you test your gear and find the focus point on your lens. After the setup, Roman will lead you outside to do some night shooting of your very own! If conditions are rainy or too overcast, this workshop will be cancelled. You should bring a fully charged DSLR with memory card and a sturdy tripod. A lens in the range of 10-24mm and an f/stop or 4.5 or faster is recommended. A cable release and bubble level are some good accessories to bring but not required. Don't forget to bring a small flashlight or headlamp to help you get around at night! Limited to 20 participants. **By preregistration only.** Location: Program begins at visitor center and then continues on the refuge.

Sunday, October 19th

6:30 am: Sunrise Photo Shoot; Meet near the entrance to the boardwalk at Parking Lot 1. Tripods recommended but not required. No preregistration required. Location: on the refuge

7:00 – 9:00 am: Field Workshop: Photographing Birds; Join photographer Roman Kurywczak in the field for a hands-on workshop about how to photograph birds in the wild. Meet on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **By preregistration only;** limited to 30 participants. Location: on the refuge

10:00 am – 11:00 am: Image Design & Capturing Light; a presentation by photographer Ed Heaton. This presentation will cover the overlooked and sometimes forgotten aspects of image design and the important role that light plays in creating dramatic and spectacular images. Join Ed as he talks in-depth about how to get a better understanding of the basic and advanced concepts of composing compelling compositions and using light to make extraordinary images from ordinary subjects! Location: refuge visitor center

12:30 – 1:30 pm: Panoramic Landscape Photography; a presentation by photographer Kathy Tarantola. Kathy will show samples of her panoramic landscape photographs and discuss composition, equipment,

exposure and helpful tips for both film based panoramic cameras and for digital stitching of images.
Location: refuge visitor center

3:00 pm: 2014 Photo Contest Winners Announced! Location: at the visitor center

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. Patricia Lane Evans is August's Artist of the Month. She is an avid nature photographer and active member of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR.

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.