



Join Us for Free, Fun Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

October, 2016

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,



HELP US CELEBRATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK OCTOBER 9TH -15TH!

Take a Walk Along the Refuge Dike!

Saturday, October 8th thru Sunday, October 16th

Enjoy this special and limited opportunity to walk along the refuge's North Pool dike – an area normally closed to public access. The dike's pathway provides additional, expansive views of the salt marsh – the incredibly valuable and beautiful wildlife habitat that comprises the majority of the refuge's acreage. Visitors will be able to park their vehicles and access the dike from Sub Headquarters, the North Pool Overlook, and/or the Hellcat cross-dike (Parking Lot 4 on the refuge map). Dike access is limited to foot traffic only. The Bill Forward Pool dike will remain closed. Refuge visitors are cautioned to be on the alert for the abundant patches of poison ivy that grow along the banks of the dike. Don't forget to bring binoculars, a camera, or perhaps even a spotting scope!

Plum Island History Walk: Stage Island

Saturday, October 8th, 10:00 am to noon

Join refuge volunteer and history lover Ellie Bailey for a walk into the past on the refuge's beautiful Stage Island. **We'll meet at the refuge's parking lot 6** – immediately opposite the entrance path to Stage Island (yellow pipe gate). From there we'll hike along the island, stopping at historic sites to learn how human uses changed over time and what impact they had on the natural world. This is a hike of about a mile along a dirt road, so please dress comfortably and

safely for walking and for the weather. This guided 1.5 – 2 hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. This program is limited to 12 participants AND **preregistration is required.**

Meet a Naturalist and Historian on the Refuge

Held on the following days between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon: Wednesday, October 12th and Friday October 14th

Explore the cultural and natural history of the area surrounding the North Pool and Sub-Headquarters. Refuge volunteer naturalists and historians will be available at the Sub-Headquarters/Maintenance Facility. Stop by to walk on the dike, learn how human uses have changed over time and their impact on the natural world, and hear about the wildlife that reside, migrate through and breed here. Dress comfortably and safely for walking and for the weather. **Preregistration is NOT required.**

Meet a Refuge Naturalist at the Hellcat Wildlife Observation Area

Held on the following days between 1:00 and 3:00 pm: Monday October 10th and Friday, October 14th

Meet up with refuge volunteer naturalist Laura Trudel on the refuge at the Hellcat wildlife observation area (via parking lot 4, near the observation tower). Learn how North Pool and Bill Forward Pool are managed for migratory birds and other wildlife. Learn to recognize some of the avian visitors to the refuge as they pass through on their way south; meet our resident birds and our wintering visitors from the north. Bring binoculars if you have them, along with your questions. **Preregistration is NOT required.**

Preschool Nature Explorers

On these Mondays in October 17th & 24th; each session from 10:00 - 11:15 am

This is a series of hands-on nature classes for 4 and 5 year old children (and their caregivers). Sign up for individual sessions or the entire series! All 3 sessions will be held at the refuge visitor center. The theme of these classes will be “events in nature” (e.g., seed production and food storage, grasshoppers and crickets). Children will be encouraged to make observations and explore nature. Part of each session will be held outdoors, so dress appropriately (including rain gear and boots if necessary). The series of classes will include making and keeping a journal and doing nature-related crafts/projects to bring home. Each class session will be limited to 12 children. Parents/caregivers must remain with their children during the session.

Preregistration is required.

NEW & FREE!: Fun Family Photo Day

Saturday, October 15th, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fun Family Photo Day is a daylong event that will feature a wealth of fun opportunities for both kids and adults to capture images of nature and wildlife using digital cameras (including smart phones!). Beginning at the refuge visitor center, event participants will be able to photograph a variety of live animals up close and personal (including native fish through aquarium glass - no easy task!). Another photo op will involve taking a “selfie” with Puddles the blue goose – a human-sized version of the Refuge System’s official logo. The visitor center portion of the event will also

include a number of informative, hands-on exhibits that focus on such things as backyard bird photography and how to set up a trail camera.

After taking pictures at the visitor center, event participants will be invited to complete a photo scavenger hunt on the Plum Island portion of the refuge. A scavenger hunt “shot list” will guide them to a number of discrete locations on the refuge where they will be asked to capture a variety of specific types of photos including landscapes and close-ups. The scavenger hunt will include a very cool “*This Place is for the Birds!*” trail, where the goal will be to find and photograph as many hidden critters as possible. Event participants who then return to the visitor center to show proof of having completed the scavenger hunt will be rewarded with a matted print of one of their photos, a chance to win a number of exciting raffle prizes, and a special certificate.

Event participants should bring a camera with them to the event. The camera can be of any type; even a camera – equipped smart phone will do the trick! Participants should plan to begin their event adventure at the refuge visitor center, which is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. This new FREE event, which is being held in honor of National Wildlife Refuge Week, will take place rain or shine. Answers to questions about the event can be obtained by calling the refuge headquarters at (978) 465-5753. Additional refuge information is available through the web site: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/. **NO preregistration.**

Monthly Book Club

Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 pm

During our monthly meeting in October, we’ll be discussing “Cod,” by Mark Kurlansky. With a bit less biology-based writing, and a lot more history, this short book will be a real eye opener to just how large of an impact humans can have on wild animals through over exploitation. Discussions are limited to 15 participants and will take place at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge visitor center. **Preregistration IS required for all meetings.** Please call our headquarters at (978) 465-5753 to register.

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR

Held on the following days: Friday, October 21st @ 9:30 am; Sunday, October 23rd @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, October 29th @ 9:30 am; and Sunday, October 30th @ 1:00 pm

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.***

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Tuesday, October 25th from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

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 10 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. **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.) *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.*** Preregistration required. For directions to the refuge, click on this link: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html