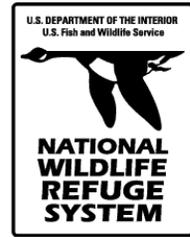


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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

Walk the North Pool Dike at Parker River NWR!

Saturday, October 6th thru Monday, October 15th – open sunrise to sunset

Once again, in honor of National Wildlife Refuge Week, refuge visitors will be able to take a walk along the North Pool Dike, between the North Pool Overlook and Hellcat. Take advantage of this special opportunity to enjoy a new perspective of both the Great Marsh and the refuge's largest impoundment.

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Tuesday, October 2nd; Monday, October 15th; and Monday, October 29th – all sessions 9:00 a.m. – 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

Great Bay Shoreline Cleanup

Saturday, October 6th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

With the help of community volunteers, we can keep our bay clean. Volunteers will be guided by USFWS personnel to closed areas of the refuge where they will remove garbage and debris from the shoreline. Let's promote clean water and a healthy environment for wildlife and people! Groups and families are welcome. We advise wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, and sturdy boots. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, a light snack and water. Supplies provided include trash bags, gloves, and data tracking sheets. Meet at the parking lot at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. **Sign up online at:** <https://naturegroupie.org>.

Bicycle Tour of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Tuesday, October 9th; Friday, October 19th; and Monday, October 22nd; all sessions 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour, by bicycle, 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 habitats and learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel over generally level terrain on a combination of paved and unpaved surfaces (approximately 4.6 miles). The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. Each participant must provide either a hybrid or mountain bike, helmet, and water bottle. Insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera are optional (provided these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger in the Great Bay NWR parking lot 15 minutes before the tour start time. Limited to 10 participants.

Preregistration required. For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.htm

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

Thursday, October 11th & Thursday, October 18th; 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.**

Smart Phone Camera Academy!

Saturday, October 13th, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

You may not know it, but that smart phone you carry around in your pocket is also a great camera, capable of taking photos that you'd be proud to print, frame and hang on your living room wall. "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 informative, informal program, Ranger Poole will provide all the tips and tools necessary for you to create your own wall art. Meet in the refuge visitor center auditorium.

NO preregistration for this program.

Great Bay Walkabout Weekend

Saturday, October 13th & Sunday, October 14th; 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on both days

This is a special event to celebrate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *National Wildlife Refuge Week!* Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 1100 acres of beautiful New Hampshire forests, fields, and shoreline. On these two weekend days in October, visitors are welcome to explore certain areas on the refuge that are normally closed to the public. Enjoy expansive views of Great Bay from Woodman Point. Visit the Upper Peverly Pond Dam, which provides views of Lower Peverly Pond.

Participate in a guided tour inside of the former weapons storage area, where you can walk inside of a Cold War-era bunker and learn about the refuge's important role in helping the rare New England cottontail. Pedestrian access only into the normally closed areas of the refuge. Please no bikes and no pets. **No preregistration for this event; simply show up!** Here are some directions to the refuge: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.htm

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour of Parker River NWR

Held on the following days: Saturday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, October 21st @ 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 27th @ 9:30 a.m.; Sunday, October 28th @ 1:00 p.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.

Nelson Island Tour

Sunday, October 21st, from 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'll 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.**

Meet a Bog - Up Close and Personal

Sunday, October 21st from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. & Wednesday, October 24th, from 10:30 a.m. to noon

Learn about wild cranberries in the refuge. This is a program for all ages. Meet at the Visitors Center for a very brief introduction before driving together to the refuge where we will walk to the beach and over the dunes on a trail to the cranberry bog. After learning about cranberry history and the bog ecosystem with its soil structure, plant, and animal components, we will each pick a small bag of cranberries to take home. **Preregistration is required**, with a limit of 20 participants. Please wear waterproof boots and come dressed for the weather.

Awaken Your Senses to the Outdoors

Thursday, October 25th, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

For the majority of us it is possible to experience a deep sense of joy in doing something new. There is no need to make changes to our lifestyle; small actions offered to all by nature, introduced into our daily routines, can have a joyful effect. We will be utilizing some of the content found in the *New York Times* bestseller "How to Read Nature and Awaken Your Senses to the Outdoors You've Never Noticed" by author Tristan Gooley, to set the foundation for this experience-altering session. Through a series of exercises, we will flex our senses, give them a bit of a workout, giving us insight into letting nature open our minds and senses allowing for telling time, direction, weather and more. Space is limited to 12

participants (age 16 and older). Much of this program will take place outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Meet the program leader on the deck of the Visitor Contact Station at parking lot 1. **Preregistration 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.