

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge; Phone: (978) 465-5753

Free Public Programs in March at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will be offering the following free public programs during the month of February. Please note that many of the refuge programs require preregistration. Registrations are not confirmed until the registrant receives a phone call from a member of the refuge staff. Anyone having a question about a refuge program is asked to contact the refuge at (978) 465-5753.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Saturday, July 2nd at 9:30 am; Saturday, July 9th at 9:30 am; Sunday, July 10th at 1:00 pm; Saturday, July 16th at 9:30 am; Sunday, July 17th at 1:00 pm; Saturday, July 23rd at 9:30 am; Sunday, July 24th at 1:00 pm; Saturday, July 30th at 9:30 am; and Sunday, July 31st at 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.**

An Introduction to Marine Mammal Emergency Response

Friday, July 15th from 1:00- 2:00 pm

The New Hampshire Marine Mammal Rescue Team, managed by the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, New Hampshire, responds to marine mammal emergencies that occur along the NH and northeastern Massachusetts coast. This very special, one-hour presentation will address species commonly seen in our area (along with seasonality and pupping seasons); how people can help if they find a live or dead marine mammal (or receive a report of a marine mammal); and the best ways to contact the team (and what to include in a report). The presentation will also include a summary of marine mammal incidents that occurred in 2015, with an emphasis on northeastern Massachusetts. Audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions. This program will take place in the refuge visitor center, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. There is no preregistration for this program.

Tide Pool Discoveries

July 8th 9:00 am, July 14th 1:00 pm, July 24th 9:00 am, and July 28th noon

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is 90 minutes long, allowing time for travel to and from the beach. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

Monthly Book Club

"A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold.

Thursday, July 21st from 6:30 pm

Discussion groups will meet on Thursday, July 21st from 6:30 pm. 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. *Note: Those who call and leave a message after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member.**

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.

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