

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



ASSABET RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Visitor Center at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA. For questions about programs or to register contact Kizette at kizette_ortizvanger@fws.gov or 978-562-3527 x 117.

<p>Saturday, April 5th at 1pm</p>	<p>“Threatened Turtles of Massachusetts: Local Communities & Schools are Working to Save Them!” Learn about two local, threatened turtle species from Jared Green, who has first-hand experience tracking and catching these elusive reptiles. Families are welcome and you can meet our resident Blanding’s turtles. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex is home to the federally-endangered Northern Red-bellied Cooter and the state-threatened Blanding’s turtle. Both species have seen severe population declines in the last several decades due to habitat loss and mortality from motor vehicles. To curb the loss of these fascinating freshwater turtle species, the USFWS has been working to protect and enhance existing and new populations. A population of Northern Red-bellied Cooters is being augmented at Massasoit National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and a new population of Blanding’s turtles is being established at the Assabet River NWR using a conservation technique called head-starting, with local schools raising the turtle hatchlings. Jared Green, is a graduate student at the University of Georgia who has worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service since 2011. Jared will talk about the history of both species in Massachusetts and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s recent efforts to save them. For information on how you can help save Blanding’s Turtles, go to www.farnwr.org</p>
<p>Sunday, April 6th</p>	<p>EARLY SPRING REFUGE BIRD WALK WITH JOHN MILHAVEN AT 7-9AM Spring is a time of transition when migrating birds are returning to our area and some species are just passing through on their way further north. Come join us as we see what birds are on the refuge. The lack of leaves on the trees makes spotting and identifying them much easier than later in the summer. Meet outside the Visitor Center. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather. Free for Friends members, \$5 for non-members. Contact jmilhaven@gmail.com to reserve a space.</p> <p>MARION STODDART – THE “WORK OF 1,000” DOCUMENTARY FILM AND DISCUSSION AT 1PM Join local conservation hero and citizen activist, Marion Stoddart, for a screening of "<i>The Work of 1,000</i>". Marion will also lead a discussion on leadership lessons learned. The 30-minute documentary film, "<i>The Work of 1,000</i>", covers Marion's journey as an ordinary citizen who realized her power to make a difference by working to clean up the Nashua River, once one of the ten most polluted rivers in America. Her dramatic success in mobilizing the community showed people that change was possible, even though many had lost hope. Please join us to hear Marion describe her fascinating and inspiring story. For more information, go to www.farnwr.org</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 22nd – Friday, April 25th at 9am-1pm</p>	<p>PUDDLESTOMPERS KIDS NATURE EXPLORATION– Drop-Off April Vacation Program Let us lead your children in discovering the beauty and wonder of new life in the spring during PUDDLESTOMPERS April vacation week drop-off program! Learn how plants grow and look for rainbows after April showers. Search for signs of animals and their food sources. Investigate birds building their new nests. Discover worms and other exciting life in the soil. We’ll explore a different topic each day through hands-on exploration, active movement and play, crafts, stories, and songs. A snack will be provided each day, as well as a take-home craft and handout with additional activities and information to extend learning and nature discovery into your home. Bring a nut-free lunch. Min. 4 children/Max. 20 children. Dates: Sign up for 1, 2, 3 or all 4 days! Ages: 3-6 year olds, drop-off Cost: \$60/day/child; Friends of Assabet River receive 10% discount. Register at Puddlestompers.com</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 23rd at 7pm</p>	<p>FRIENDS APRIL PRESENTATION – Organization for the Assabet, Sudbury, Concord Rivers “Water Chestnut Mapping of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers” OARS will present the results of two years of mapping the invasive water chestnut plant in the Assabet River, and one year of mapping it throughout the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers. Learn about the impacts of water chestnut, where it comes from, and the prospects for managing it. OARS will be providing several ways that residents can get involved in keeping this serious threat under control! <i>Suzanne Flint</i>, OARS Staff Scientist, has been in charge of mapping the extent of water chestnut on the Assabet River since 2012 and on the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord rivers in 2013. <i>Alison Field-Juma</i>, OARS Executive Director, has been working with municipalities, non-profits and volunteers to develop ways to control water chestnut in the SuAsCo watershed.</p>

	<p>OARS is the watershed organization for the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord rivers, dedicated to restoring and protecting the three rivers through science-based advocacy, education, and recreation. Founded in 1986, OARS is a non-profit that works through volunteer citizen scientists and a professional staff to understand the causes of river degradation and find solutions that build sustainability and resilience into our water resources.</p> <p>This is the Friends of the Assabet River NWR's Annual Meeting. A brief business meeting will precede the presentation and light refreshments will be served.</p>
<p>Friday, April 25th at 10:30am</p>	<p>REFUGE FLEDGLING HOUR Nature themed program series that will include crafts, stories, and games or songs that will relate to a different topic each month. This month we'll look at a day in the life of a fish. Programs will be held the 4th Friday of every month 10:30am – 11:30am for 2 to 5 year olds; siblings welcome.</p>
<p>Saturday, April 26th at 10am-12:30pm</p>	<p>ART IN NATURE KIDS WORKSHOP: Watercolor on the Loose Have you ever observed the details and color variation of a waterfowl feather? Come and enjoy individual hands-on instruction with Cecilia Sharma, a museum school instructor and award-winning designer and artist. The refuge is a great spot for the painter's eye to observe like a naturalist. Through a series of "fun" painting exercises, students will learn layering of paint, developing textures, shapes and creating the illusion of light. Students will paint face to face with their natural subject through samplings in nature, animal skulls, pelts and taxidermy. Open to 5th-8th Graders. Fee: \$10 Friends Members/\$20 Non-members. <i>Cecilia Sharma is currently teaching at the Wayland Art Center and The Sudbury Valley Trustees. She inspires, motivates and teaches the fundamental principles of painting and allows students to develop their own personal style.</i> Co-sponsored with FARNWR. Registration open to 15 participants. To register contact Kizette.</p>
<p>Sunday, April 27th at 9am-12pm</p>	<p>SUDBURY ANNUAL TOWN CLEANUP Help clean up the town roads surrounding the refuge's boundary. Dress for the weather, bring gloves, a snack and water! If interested in volunteering for the cleanup, contact Kizette for details.</p>

GREAT MEADOWS NWR

Concord Impoundments on Mosen Road, off Rte. 62 in Concord, MA; 73 Weir Hill Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

<p>Sunday, April 13th at 3-5pm and Sunday, May 11th at 3-5pm</p>	<p>SPRING MONTHLY NATURE WALKS: A Sense of Place at Great Meadows NWR (Concord) A succession of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, maple buds and pussywillows, and the chorusing of frogs accompany us on our April foray. And in May, we'll stroll among unfolding ferns and wildflowers and enjoy the frenzy of mating/nesting/hatching songbirds and the buzz of bees as the refuge comes fully awake for the warmer months ahead. Join local naturalist, Cherrie Corey, for walks of spring renewal and refreshment over these next three months. Dress in layers and wear water repellent boots or shoes, in the event of muds and puddles, and don't forget your sunscreen. For each walk, a \$5/person voluntary donation is requested, refuge entrance fee waived for walk participants. No pre-registration required. Meet at the information kiosk by the parking lot, Great Meadows NWR in Concord (Mosen Rd, off Rte. 62, driveway on left where road curves right). Questions? See sense-of-place-concord.blogspot, email cherrie.corey@verizon.net or call 978-760-1933. For up to date program information and weather cancellation notices, go to the new <i>Calendar of Programs and Events</i> tab, located just under the website masthead. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Assabet River NWR, Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>
<p>Saturday, April 19th at 7-8:30pm</p>	<p>WOODCOCK WATCH at Great Meadows NWR (Sudbury) The earliest signs of spring are here! Join us for a dusk walk to see the male woodcock's aerial courtship display at 73 Weir Hill, Great Meadows NWR in Sudbury. Listen for the woodcock "peents" and see the male in full flight in display. Free for Friends members, \$5 for non-members. Contact jmilhaven@gmail.com to reserve a space.</p>

REMINDER: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE REFUGES

Contact Us

680 Hudson Road Sudbury, MA 01776 978-562-3527

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/assabet_river

Friends of Assabet River: <http://www.farnwr.org/>

Friends of the Oxbow NWR: <http://www.friendsoftheoxbownwr.org/>

