

Come Learn About the Threatened Turtles of Massachusetts!



Northern Red-bellied Cooter Hatchlings



Blanding's Turtle Hatchling

And How Local Communities & Schools are Working to Save Them!

Where: Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center
680 Hudson Road, Sudbury

When: Sunday December 15th at 2 PM

Description: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex is home to the federally-threatened 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 & 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.

Come join Jared Green, 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.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Assabet River NWR, a non-profit working with the USFWS to enhance and support the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.

For information on how you can help save Blanding's Turtles, go to www.farnwr.org