



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

APRIL- 2013

REGISTRATION

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and also insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information: <http://parkerriver.fws.gov> or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Please note: If a program requires pre-registration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

“Behind the Scenes” Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 9:30 am; Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 at 1 pm and Fridays April 12 and 26 at 1pm. Tours last approximately 2 hours.

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 Headquarters visitor center. Each session is limited to 10 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 having received a confirmation call back from a refuge staff member. Please call 978-465-5753; to register for this program.

Nature Kids!

Tuesday April 9th, 11:00 am - Noon

A new fun class geared for 4-6 yr olds. This class is run by one of our dedicated volunteers who is a retired school teacher. This session's theme is "common birds" and it will teach kids about different types of bird adaptations and how to identify birds. This builds on the "Backyard Birds" class last month but it is not necessary to have attended the first class to participate in this one. ***The class is limited to 10 children aged 4-6 yrs old.*** A parent or guardian must be present throughout the one hour session. Call for reservations. Meet at the at the refuge visitor center in Newburyport. Activities will be held in the classroom.

Spring Hawk Watching on Plum Island - A Different Type of Birding!

Friday, April 12th at 7:00 pm

April is the time you can see a variety of spectacular hawks unusually well on the refuge as they migrate through our area. Join Paul Roberts, Founder of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch (EMHW), for a narrated slide presentation about the amazing birds of prey you can see in spring. The hour-long presentation will be held in the refuge visitor center auditorium, beginning at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 12th. Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 13th at 1:30 pm

A new nature and wildlife photography club has formed at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. This club is intended for anyone – from beginners to professionals – who have an interest in nature and photography. The club meets once each month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's photography-related programming and outreach work. The meeting will start at 1:30 pm in the refuge visitor center auditorium. **Preregistration is NOT required to attend this program.**

That's Just Ducky!

Thursday, April 18th at 10:00 am

Are your kids interested in birds? Are they always asking you what kind of bird they see or hear? Join the Refuge's wildlife biologist (and Mom) Nancy Pau, as she introduces your kids to the world of bird watching. During this 1.5 hour program, we'll introduce parents and children to binocular use, bird anatomy (and adaptations), and what species of birds use the refuge. We'll then walk over to the Salt Pannes Wildlife Observation Area to learn about and observe some ducks in beautiful breeding plumage.

This program is best for children ages 5-10. A spotting scope and some binoculars will be provided. Bring binoculars and bird books if you have them. Please make sure you and your children are dressed appropriately for this outside activity. Parents must remain with their children for this program. Limited to 10 children. Participants should meet Nancy on the refuge at Parking Lot 3. Rain date is April 19th (same time). **Preregistration is required.**

For more information and/or to register for a program, call (978) 465-5753.