



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

MARCH- 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: Fridays – March 15 & 22 at 1:00 pm; Saturdays – March 2, 23, 30 at 9:30 am; and Sundays – March 3, 10, 17, 24 at 1:00 pm. 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.

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Nature Kids!

Tuesday, March 5 from 11:00 am – Noon

A new fun class geared towards 4-6 yr olds. This class will be run by one of our dedicated volunteers who is a retired school teacher. This session's theme is "Living Wild" and it will help kids learn the differences between a refuge and a park. Songs, art activities and interactive lessons will allow children to better understand the difference between "tame" and "wild." ***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 Refuge visitor center. Activities will be held in the classroom.

Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 9 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 slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, local photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's photography-related programming and outreach work.

This month Jim Fenton, celebrated nature photographer, will present a narrated slide program about photographing eagles and other raptors. Jim's slide presentation will be presented during the Society's regular monthly meeting, which begins in the refuge visitor center auditorium on March 9th at 1:30 pm. ***Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.*** Please call 978-465-5753 for more information about the Photographic Society.

Volunteer Plover Warden Orientation

Sessions will be held twice: Thursday, March 14th at 9:00 am & Saturday, March 16th at 9:00 am.

Do you enjoy talking to the public, helping wildlife, and being on the beach? This orientation will teach you about the piping plover, as well as provide an overview of what it means to serve as a Plover Warden. Plover Wardens make a significant contribution to the success of the piping plover breeding season. As of April 1st the entire Refuge beach is closed to all public entry in order to provide undisturbed habitat for this federally threatened species. Plover Wardens are stationed at the north and south ends of the Refuge's six mile long ocean beach, as well as on the west side of Sandy Point State Reservation (this is an interpretive position). Plover Wardens greet visitors, informally interpret the Refuge's plover management efforts and notify staff of closure violations. Participants in this session will hear from and be able to ask questions of Refuge staff that specialize in biology, law enforcement and visitor services. Attending the session does not obligate you to volunteer. Meet in the Refuge visitor center auditorium. ***Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.***

Winter Weather Note: These events may be cancelled due to stormy winter weather. When registering for a program please make sure you give good contact information in case we need to call you and cancel the program.