

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

September, 2016



REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 85 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Saturday, September 3rd at 9:30 am; Friday, September 9th at 9:30 am, Sunday, September 11th at 1:00 pm; Sunday, September 18th at 1:00 pm; Saturday, September 24th at 9:30 am; and Sunday, September 25th 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.**

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following day: Saturday, September 17th at 9:30 am.

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of wildlife habitats while learning how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for conservation. Consider bringing along binoculars and a camera. The tour is limited to 15 participants; no more than 3 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. This guided program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Parker River NWR visitor center in Newburyport no later than 9:00 am OR in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH no later than 9:45 am. (Indicate location you prefer at time of registration.) 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. **Preregistration is required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

Plum Island Sunrise Photo Shoot

Saturday, September 10th @ 5:30 am

As we march toward autumn, and the days get shorter, it becomes a lot easier to get up “early” in order to photograph a Plum Island sunrise from the refuge beach! Join Ranger Poole and other members of the refuge’s Photographic Society for this first-of-the-season organized effort to capture unique and compelling sunrise images. We’ll meet on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **Preregistration is NOT required. Note: In the event that the weather forecast looks particularly “unsupportive,” cancellation will be communicated through the refuge’s Facebook page no later than 10:00 pm on Friday, Sept. 9th.**

Special Public Program During Monthly Photo Club Meeting:

“What Ever Happened to the of Birds of John James Audubon?”

Saturday, September 10th at 1:30 pm

Naturalist, photographer, and wildlife advocate Peter Christoph will compare and contrast his own bird photographs with the works of ornithologist, hunter, and painter, John J. Audubon. In cases where Audubon’s birds may no longer exist, Peter will offer observations about what may have happened to them. He will discuss some of the conservation efforts undertaken by the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in the ongoing battle to help save additional species from extinction. Peter will talk about using a camera to document birds and their behavior in support of wildlife conservation.

Mr. Christoph’s program is being presented as part of the regular monthly meeting of the Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge’s very own photo club welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography - whether a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every 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 various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. Venue capacity is limited to 85 attendees (first come, first served). **Admission to this program is free and preregistration is NOT required.**

Refuge Bicycle Tour (at Parker River)

Saturday, September 10th & Saturday, September 24th – both at 9:00 am

Experience the refuge from the unique perspective of your very own bicycle! Starting at the visitor contact station at Lot 1, the ranger-led group will gradually make its way south along the paved portion of the refuge’s Wildlife Drive, stopping at various points along the way to view wildlife, hear stories of Plum Island’s past, and learn about the inner workings of a national wildlife refuge. This is an “out and back” tour. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a bicycle, helmet, and water bottle.** Participants may also wish to bring insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera (if these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.**

Preschool Nature Explorers

On these Mondays in September: 12th, 19th, & 26th; each session from 10:00 - 11:15 am

This is a series of hands-on nature classes for 4 and 5 year old children (and their caregivers). Sign up for individual sessions or the entire series! All 3 sessions will be held at the refuge visitor center. The theme of these classes will be “events in nature” (e.g., seed production and food storage, grasshoppers

and crickets). Children will be encouraged to make observations and explore nature. Part of each session will be held outdoors, so dress appropriately (including rain gear and boots if necessary). The series of classes will include making and keeping a journal and doing nature-related crafts/projects to bring home. Each class session will be limited to 12 children. Parents/caregivers must remain with their children during the session. **Preregistration is required.**

Monthly Book Club

"Swampwalker's Journal" by local author David Carroll and "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold
Thursday, September 15th at 6:30 pm

Discussion groups will meet on Thursday, September 13th 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.**

Exploring Great Bay NWR by Bicycle

Monday, September 19th @ 9:00 am

Join a refuge ranger for a **behind the scenes tour, by bicycle**, of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of habitats while learning how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel approximately 5.3 miles over surfaces that are variously paved and unpaved. The terrain is generally level with a few gradual hills. The average recreational cyclist would rate the tour route as moderate on a difficulty scale. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a either a hybrid or mountain bike, helmet, and water bottle.** Insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera are optional (provided these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger in the Great Bay NWR parking lot 15 minutes before the tour start time. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link:
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Friday, September 30th @ 10:30 am

There is no better way to see and experience the refuge's salt marsh than from the cockpit of your own kayak! Join a couple of refuge rangers for a 2.5 hour meander through the marsh and learn about some of its fascinating natural and cultural history. **Program participants should have kayaking experience and need to provide their own kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device (PFD).** Participant boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length and have onboard flotation. It is recommended that participants provide their own insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snack food, and wear clothing appropriate for the weather. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Meet the rangers at the refuge's boat ramp, opposite Lot 1, fifteen minutes prior to the program start time. Enrollment limited to 12 participants. **Preregistration is required.**

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.