



Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of R.I.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Summer 2019 *Wildlife Wednesdays* Lecture Series



Wildlife Wednesdays presentations are returning with another full program for our 14th year—every Wednesday (almost) from June 19 through August 28 at 7:00 PM, at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Kettle Pond Visitor Center, 50 Bend Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island. Admission is free and all ages are welcome. For additional information check our web page at <http://www.FriendsNWRofRI.org>, visit us on Facebook, or contact Bob Kenney (friends.ri@verizon.net, 401-874-6664) or Janis Nepshinsky (Janis_Nepshinsky@fws.gov, 401-364-9124 ext. 4404).

June 19: “Seals of Rhode Island,” with Dr. Bob Kenney, a marine biologist from the URI Graduate School of Oceanography and your *Wildlife Wednesdays* host. Harbor seals are the best known marine mammal residents in our state, but gray seals are now being seen year-round at Block Island. Bob will talk about all four species of seals that occur in our waters, accompanied by lots of pictures.



June 26: “New England Frogs and Toads,” with Dr. Scott Buchanan, herpetologist with the R.I. DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife. Frogs are one of the most threatened groups of vertebrates on a global basis. Scott will fill us in on the species that we find in Rhode Island and neighboring states, their biology and behavior, and the range of conservation issues.

July 3: No presentation because of the holiday.

July 10: “Glacial Geology of Southern New England,” with Dr. Bryan Oakley, Eastern Connecticut State University Dept. of Environmental Earth Science. Did you ever wonder why the landscape in South County is shaped the way it is? Professor Oakley will discuss various aspects of the most recent glaciation, including timing, landforms, and deposits with a focus on Rhode Island and adjacent areas of southern New England.



July 17: “Birding Adventures in Southern Peru,” with Wayne Munns and Carlos Pedro, international birders who stay away from organized group birding tours in favor of flexibility and customization. Wayne and Carlos will present a photo-rich travelogue of their 19-day self-guided trip to several areas in Peru. Join us to see and hear about their fantastic encounters with about 430 species of birds (including 43 species of hummingbirds and 75 species in the tanager family), lots of primates and other wildlife, and even guinea pig for dinner!

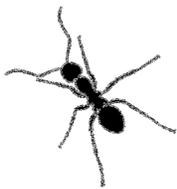
July 24: “Restoring Spadefoot Toads in Rhode Island,” with Suzanne Paton, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist. Spadefoot toads are a family of frogs that are actually adapted to live in deserts, and the eastern spadefoot is one of our most endangered species. Suzanne will describe a new project that is trying to restore Rhode Island’s last surviving population of these fascinating amphibians.





July 31: “Black Bears of Maine,” with Dr. Gerry Krausse, retired URI professor and skilled videographer. An adult male black bear is New England’s largest carnivore. Bears have been showing up more often in Rhode Island recently (even in South County), but are still much rarer here than in more northern parts of New England. Gerry is a Wildlife Wednesdays regular. He last showed us his video project on Maine’s bears in 2011, and has done additional work on it since then.

August 7: “The Spell of Yellowstone,” with Dr. Laura Landen, retired Providence College philosophy and talented nature photographer. Laura has visited Yellowstone many times, in all seasons, between her first time in August 1946 (before interstate highways or air-conditioned cars) and her most recent in July 2007 (on horseback through the back country). Yellowstone’s unique status as the world’s first national park and her personal travel experiences there have inspired her teaching of environmental philosophy and other environmental courses.



August 14: “Ants of Rhode Island,” with Dr. David Gregg, Executive Director of the R.I. Natural History Survey. An ant is something that we can all recognize on sight (and probably squish right afterwards). But how many of us can tell one species from another, or have any idea of how many species we might have in the state? David is currently working with professors from Providence College and Harvard to create a comprehensive list of our state’s ants. (Without squishing them.)

August 21: “Propagating Native Plants From Seed,” with Hope Leeson, R.I. Natural History Survey botanist. Hope has been overseeing the Rhody Native program since its beginnings in 2010. To fulfill the mission of making available locally adapted specimens of native plant species for gardens, landscaping, and habitat restoration, staff and volunteers collect and propagate seed from within the state. Hope will talk about the process from seed collection to the final plants ready for sale or transplanting.



August 28: Open for a last-minute volunteer, audience request, or surprise. What would you like to hear more about? Check Facebook or the website for updates.

Friends of the National Wildlife Refuges of Rhode Island is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing conservation, education, and outreach activities on the five National Wildlife Refuges in our state. We encourage everyone to join our membership and become a friend to Rhode Island wildlife. All donations to the Friends are tax-deductible.