

News Release

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Block Island NWR □ John H. Chafee NWR at Pettaquamscutt Cove □ Ninigret NWR □ Sachuest Point NWR □ Trustom Pond NWR

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September 2019 Public Programs by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

These programs are offered FREE to the public by a dedicated and skilled group of volunteers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife staff and local community resources in an effort to increase your enjoyment of the conservation, protection and enhancement of your National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island.

Art in the Garden - Nature Journal Page

Join USFWS Volunteer, Naturalist and Expressive Artist Wendy Rappaport to connect with the beautiful Kettle Pond Rhode Island Native Plant Garden. Learn about plants & nature by observing and recording what you see on paper- and at the same time express yourself with the materials provided.

This class is not about learning how to draw, it's about observation & expression. Some writing will be included. No experience necessary. All materials provided, unless you'd like to bring your favorites. Bring water, hat, sunscreen and small camping type stool to sit on if you have one. Frequent as many sessions as you wish to experience the seasonal changes that take place. **For all ages! Garden and Visitor Center are wheel chair accessible.**

USFWS Volunteer Wendy Rappaport

Every Monday in September, 1:30 – 3pm, except Labor Day

Kettle Pond Visitor Center



“Wild about Reading” is Back!

Join us weekly at the Kettle Pond Visitor Center for a story time that is sure to be great fun for the youngest of naturalists. Former school librarian Cynthia Reiser will share a nature-based story followed by fun activities like finger plays as well as arts & crafts. (Ages 3-6).

USFWS Volunteer, Cynthia Reiser

Wednesdays at 10:30 am – 11:30, September 18 and 25

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown



URI Master Gardener Soil Testing at Kettle Pond RI Native Plant Garden

The soil testing helps determine soil pH levels and predominant soil texture, and provides basic information and recommendations for gradual correction of soil pH and compaction issues. If you would like your soil tested please bring in soil samples (limit of 3 at a time) taken 4-5" deep from various parts of a bed or lawn. You will want to collect the samples of soil at the plant or lawn root zone (around 6" deep). You should be gathering about a 1/2 cup amount from several sites within the same area to be tested. Mix them together, allow the soil to dry overnight on newspaper. Next, place 1 cup of the mix in a paper bag or clean container and label it. Collect separate samples from different areas on your property such as vegetable gardens, lawns and flower gardens.

Beat the crowd, get your soil tested on Thursday, and be ready for the weekend! Drop off your sample, and tour the native plant garden with

USFWS Volunteer and URI Master Gardener Dave Vissoe.

URI Master Gardener Soil Testers

Thursdays, September 12 and 26, 1 pm to 4 pm

Kettle Pond Visitor Center



Bass Popper Fly Workshop

Join RI DEM's Aquatic Resource Education Program, United Fly Tyers of Rhode Island, and Trout Unlimited to create your own freshwater bass popper fly. All equipment and materials are included. These workshops are FREE and open to the public but registration is required. Program participants will be invited to a free fishing day in Carolina RI to try out their new bass popper fly on September 22, 2019.

Fly tying workshop date: September 16, 6 pm - 8 pm

Kettle Pond Visitor Center



Fishing Date – September 22, 2019, Carolina, RI

To register please contact: Scott Travers at Scott.travers@dem.ri.gov or 401-539-0016

Kettle Pond Native Plant Demonstration Garden – Come stop by and see what's growing!

Stop by the new native plant demonstration garden at Kettle Pond Visitor Center. It's a University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Site, which is designed for visitors to learn about the importance of native plants, biodiversity, and the role of pollinators in everyday life. It demonstrates some of the essential principals of designing and growing a native species garden such as: related populations, not isolated individual; stress as an asset; cover the ground densely by vertically layering plants; make it attractive and legible; and management not maintenance.

Visitors will learn to identify native plants and their benefits and how they may fit in their own landscapes. Plus there are fun scavenger hunts to use while visiting the garden! Did you know that the wintergreen plant is used for chewing gum and tea!



Artwork by Frances Topping
