

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **September, 2021**

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.

Tour of Lower Peverly Impoundment Restoration (at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Newington, NH)

Friday, September 10th; 2 sessions – 10:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Join a refuge biologist to see and learn about a restored impoundment. Lower Peverly Pond was created by the City of Portsmouth for drinking water in the early 1900s. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has been working for years to restore this man-made impoundment, with a failing dam, to a more natural wetland that restores ecological function while continuing to attenuate upstream contaminants. We will discuss the history of the dam, restoration design options, and techniques used to ensure native and local plant diversity. Meet in the visitor parking lot. Hiking or rain boots recommended. Each session limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link: https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/greatbay_directions.pdf

Guided Birding Walk along Hellcat Boardwalk Trail

Saturday, September 11th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Join a refuge ranger for a birding walk along a section of the Hellcat Boardwalk Trail. Learn about the habits and habitats of birds that can be seen and heard on the refuge at this time of year. Bring bug spray and binoculars. The “new and improved” boardwalk is completely wheelchair accessible. Meet at the Hellcat Parking Lot (Lot 4). **Preregistration is required; enrollment limited to 15 people.**

Introduction to Birdwatching (live online program)

Monday, September 13th, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The Friends of Parker River NWR are offering a free "Introduction to Birdwatching" program via Zoom. The Friends encourage beginning birders and nature enthusiasts to join Bill Gette as he explains strategies that will help observers work through the identification process.

The Parker River National Refuge is one of the most exciting bird watching destinations in the country. Birders from all over the United States and from abroad come to Parker River to enjoy the

amazing diversity of wildlife present year round. Birdwatching is such an active and exciting hobby, why not get started now? To register, please send an email to friends@parkerriver.org

Bicycle Tour of Great Bay NWR

Monday, September 13th & Thursday, September 23rd – both sessions 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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 and learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel over generally level terrain on a combination of paved and unpaved surfaces. 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 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:

https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/greatbay_directions.pdf

Smartphone Camera Academy Goes ZOOM!

Friday, September 24th, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

You may not know it, but that smart phone you carry around in your pocket is also a great camera, capable of taking photos that you'd be proud to print, frame and hang on your living room wall. "But wait," you say, "my images never look good enough for that!" Well, here's your chance to move from snapshots to great shots! In this informative, informal program, Ranger Poole will provide all the tips and tools necessary for you to create your own wall art. This program will be delivered LIVE via Zoom. **Preregistration required.** To sign up, send an email to parkerriver@fws.gov and write "Camera Academy" on the subject line.

Beach Cleanup on National Public Lands Day!

Saturday, September 25th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On National Public Lands Day, help wildlife by picking up harmful trash on the refuge beach. Bags will be provided. Meet at Lot 1. Rain or shine. Great group activity for community organizations. Show up any time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. **No preregistration required.**

Great Bay Shoreline Cleanup

Saturday, September 25th, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

With the help of community volunteers, we can keep our bay clean. Volunteers will be guided by USFWS personnel to closed areas of the refuge where they will remove garbage and debris from the shoreline. Let's promote clean water and a healthy environment for wildlife and people! Groups and families are welcome. We advise wearing long pants, long sleeve shirts, and sturdy boots. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, a light snack and water. Supplies provided include trash bags, gloves, and data tracking sheets. Meet at the parking lot at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Sign up online at: <https://naturegroupie.org>

"Open Office Hours" – Meet the Manager!

Monday, September 27th, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Here's another opportunity to meet (relatively new) Refuge Manager Matt Hillman. Drop by the deck of the visitor contact station (adjacent to parking lot 1) to say "Hi" and get your questions answered. No need to register; simply stop by!

Stories in the Garden

Wednesday, September 29th, 11:00 a.m. – Noon

Meet at the pollinator garden in front of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge visitor center, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. Join us for stories read by our local Newburyport children's librarian. Stay for fun crafts and a self-guided walk to see the animals at the Spender-Pierce-Little Farm. No need to preregister; simply show up! Most appropriate for younger kids. No preregistration required; just show up!

Brought to you by Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with the Newburyport Public Library and Historic New England.

Restorative Nature Walk

Thursday, September 30th, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Did you know that spending just 120 minutes in nature each week can improve your sense of wellbeing? Refuge staff will lead a slow, introspective walk along the Pines Trail with a focus on mental restoration. Come prepared to engage in a restorative sensory experience without breaking a sweat! Meet in the Pines Trail parking lot. Program limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.**

Special Drop-in Program: Share Your Thoughts on “Sharing the Road”

Monday, September 6th - Lot 1 Visitor Contact Station – 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 9th - Hellcat Parking Lot – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 14th - Pines Trail Parking Lot – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Bikers and birders and beachgoers, oh my! Drop in to chat with our Public Lands Transportation Fellow about your experience on the refuge road, however you use it. Help us collaboratively reimagine how to make the road safer and more welcoming for all our users - including our winged and furry friends! **No need to register, simply drop by!**

Plum Island by Boat

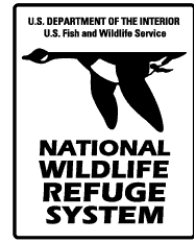
Friday September 3 - 8:30am

Monday September 6 - 10am

Saturday September 18 - 8:30am

Pristine beauty, wide open space, gorgeous views, and the chance to float up and down the peaceful, winding creeks of the world's second most productive ecosystem. Learn how Plum Island and the Great Marsh were formed and how important they are. Boat tours are offered through a private outfitter. More information can be found by visiting the Yankee Clipper Harbor Tours website or by sending an email to info@harbortours.com.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **October, 2021**

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In Honor of National Wildlife Refuge Week:

Walk Along the North Pool Dike at Parker River NWR!

Sunday, October 10th thru Saturday, October 16th – open sunrise to sunset

Once again, in honor of National Wildlife Refuge Week, refuge visitors will be able to take a walk along the North Pool Dike, between the North Pool Overlook and Hellcat. Take advantage of this special opportunity to enjoy a new perspective of both the Great Marsh and the refuge's largest impoundment. (Please note: Bicycles will not be allowed on the dike.)

Guided Birding Walk Along Hellcat Boardwalk Trail

Saturday, October 2nd, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Join a refuge ranger for a birding walk along a section of the Hellcat Boardwalk Trail. Learn about the habits and habitats of birds that can be seen and heard on the refuge at this time of year. Bring bug spray and binoculars. The "new and improved" boardwalk is completely wheelchair accessible. Meet at the Hellcat Parking Lot (Lot 4). **Preregistration is required; enrollment limited to 15 people.**

Bicycle Tour of Great Bay NWR

Monday, October 4th & Monday, October 25th; both sessions 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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 and learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel over generally level terrain on a combination of paved and unpaved surfaces. 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 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: https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/greatbay_directions.pdf

Macro Photo Shoot in a Cranberry Bog

Saturday, October 9th, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

The refuge contains a number of naturally formed cranberry bogs within the low depressions of Plum Island's dune lands. Join Ranger Poole for a special opportunity to photograph, 'up close and personal,' some of the interesting plants that live in this very special and delicate habitat. Learn and practice the fundamentals of "macro photography." Program is limited to 10 people. Appropriate for adults or children age 16 and above. Participants should (of course!), bring a camera. A tripod is optional, but could be useful! Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station at Parking Lot 1. **Preregistration required for this program.**

Pines Trail Story Walk

Sunday, October 10th – Sunday, November, November 7th

Bring your family to the Pines Trail to enjoy a StoryWalk® full of short poems about the Island from the book, *The ABCs of Plum Island, Massachusetts* by Jenn Bogard. Skip or walk along the way from page to page, discovering ideas about our local wildlife, history, and industry. This self-guided, short walk inspires families to talk about the everyday wonders around us here on Plum Island. This event is supported by the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. **No Preregistration; simply show up!**

Drop-In Program: Birdwatching from the Hellcat Tower

Sunday, October 10th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, October 11th, Wednesday, October 13th & Friday, October 15th – each 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Seasoned and enthusiastic birders from the Friends of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will be stationed on the observation tower at Hellcat, equipped with a spotting scope, to help refuge visitors to see, identify and understand whatever birds are in the immediate vicinity on these dates. This falls into the category of an informal "drop-in" program. **No Preregistration; simply show up.**

Stories in the Garden

Wednesday, October 13 & Wednesday, October 27, both sessions 11:00 a.m. – Noon

Meet at the pollinator garden in front of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge visitor center, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. Join us for stories read by our local Newburyport children's librarian. Stay for fun crafts and a self-guided walk to see the animals at the Spencer-Pierce-Little Farm. Most appropriate for younger kids. Brought to you by Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, in partnership with the Newburyport Public Library and Historic New England. **No need to preregister; simply show up!**

Meet a Wild Cranberry Bog – Up Close and Personal!

Wednesday, October 13th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. AND Thursday, October 28th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Learn about wild cranberries, and the natural bogs where they are found, on the refuge. This is a program for all ages. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at Parking Lot 1, where everyone will meet before heading over to the cranberry bog. After learning about cranberry history, and the bog ecosystem with its soil structure, plant, and animal components, we will each pick a small bag

of cranberries to take home. Please wear waterproof boots and come dressed for the weather.
Preregistration required.

Great Bay Walkabout Saturday

Saturday, October 16th; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

This is a special event to celebrate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge Week! Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge encompasses over 1100 acres of beautiful New Hampshire forests, fields, and shoreline. On this Saturday in October, visitors will be welcome to explore, on foot, certain areas of the refuge that are normally closed to the public. Enjoy expansive views of Great Bay from Woodman Point. (Note: Pedestrian access only into the normally closed areas of the refuge. Please no bikes and no pets.) **No preregistration for this event; simply show up!** Here are directions to the refuge: http://www.fws.gov/.../Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

Salt Marsh Art at Sunset

Wednesday, October 20th, 4:45 - 6:30 p.m.

Join refuge staff to appreciate the beauty of the salt marsh through art. Participants will use their senses to observe the marsh, and sketch a landscape using colored pencils on paper. All skill levels welcome. Suitable for Ages 10+. Clipboards, paper, and color pencils provided. Please bring a chair to sit on. We will take advantage of the sunset at 5:55pm and Moon Rise (Full Moon) at 6:11pm. **Pre-registration required;** limited to 10 participants. Meet at the Salt Pannes (on the refuge road, near parking lot 3).