



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **September, 2014**

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 75 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.

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Saturday, September 6th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, September 13th @ 9:30 am; Monday, September 15th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, September 20th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, September 27th @ 9:30 am; and Monday, September 29th @ 9:30 am.

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 8 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.***

NEW! - Refuge Bicycle Tours

Friday, September 5th @ 9:00 am; Friday, September 12th @ 9:00 am; Wednesday, September 17th @ 9:00 am; and Friday, September 26th @ 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.**

Meet a Shorebird!

Saturday, September 6th, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Shorebirds are amazing birds that fly thousands of miles non-stop. Every year, hundreds of thousands of them stop at Parker River NWR to fuel up for their epic migration. In celebration of the **First World Shorebird Day**, refuge biologists will be capturing, banding, and radio-tagging shorebirds to learn about their amazing journey. Meet at the Bill Forward Blind parking area (located just south of the Hellcat Trail parking lot). From there, small groups will be guided to the banding site for close encounters with these birds. Wear comfortable shoes. **Preregistration is NOT required.**

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Tuesday, September 9th @ 10:30 am and Wednesday, September 24th @ 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 three 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. 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 required.**

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, September 13th @ 1:30 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are 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 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

Annual Refuge Beach Cleanup

Saturday, September 13th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Anyone wanting to participate should show up at the refuge's parking lot 1 between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. The event will be held rain or shine. Participants should wear warm clothes, sturdy shoes, and bring work or rubber gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Individuals, companies and clubs are encouraged to get together and volunteer their time for this worthy cause. No preregistration required – simply show up! For more information about the cleanup, please contact Jean Adams at (978) 465-5753, extension 208.

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.