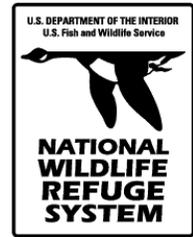


**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

## **Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!** *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **September, 2015**



### **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/](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**

***Held on the following days: Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am; and Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 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 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.***

*-continued-*

## **Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!**

***Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – both programs held from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm***

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 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the refuge. **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.) Preregistration 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. Preregistration required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great\\_Bay/visit/plan\\_your\\_visit.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html)

## **Refuge Beach Clean-up!**

***Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm***

Jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society at Joppa Flats and Parker River NWR. Held each spring and fall, this is a community effort to help clean up the refuge beach and raise awareness about beach litter. Anyone wishing to participate should show up at parking lot 1 between the hours of 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. For more information please call refuge staff member Jean Adams at (978) 465-5753, extension 208. No preregistration is required.

## **The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**

***Next Meeting: Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 pm***

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.**

## **Exploring the Refuge by Kayak**

***Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 pm***

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. Tour lasts approximately 2.5 hours. Enrollment limited to 12 participants. **Preregistration required.**

## **Tide Pool Discoveries**

***Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am***

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is approximately 2 hours long, allowing time for travel to and from the tide pool location. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

## **Monarchs, Milkweed and Migration!**

***Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am***

Come meet a monarch butterfly, learn about its life cycle, its migration to Mexico, and make milkweed seed balls to take home. Participants will even have the opportunity to help tag a monarch and release it to begin its 3,000 mile journey. Appropriate for children age 2 and up. Meet in the refuge visitor center classroom. **Preregistration is NOT required.**

## **\*\*SPECIAL "SAILS & TRAILS" Kayak Tour**

***Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm***

***Registration for this special program offering begins September 3rd***

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.**

## **NEW! – Exploring Great Bay NWR by Bicycle**

***Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 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](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html)

### **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.