

Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

September, 2017



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.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Saturday, September 2nd @ 9:30 am; Sunday, September 10th @ 1:00 pm; Friday, September 15th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, September 16th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, September 17th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, September 23rd @ 9:30 am; Sunday, September 24th @ 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 14 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.**

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Held on the following days: Friday, September 8th; Saturday, September 9th; Monday, September 18th; Friday, September 29th; and Saturday, September 30th - all 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. This guided program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. 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.) 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

Special Photography Program: Birds of the Florida Everglades

Saturday, September 9th @ 1:30 pm

Massachusetts-based nature and wildlife photographer Peter Christoph will lead a program in which he will share photographs he has taken in one of America's best known national parks. Learn about his unique and successful approach to photographing birds in the wild and the stories behind his images. He'll share "insider tips" and answer your questions.

This free public program will occur during the regular monthly meeting of the Photographic Society of Parker River NWR. The 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. The program will take place in the refuge visitor center's auditorium. Capacity is limited to 85 attendees (first-come, first-served). **Admission is free and preregistration is NOT required.**

Kids' Nature Programs - Explore the Refuge

On these Mondays in September: 11th & 25th; each session from 10:00 - 11:30 am

Take your 3-5 year old youngster on a good old fashioned nature discovery walk. Meet at the refuge visitor center before driving together to the head of the day's trail on the refuge (no parking fee charged). For each session, refuge volunteers will lead the children and their caregivers on a walk to explore different aspects of the refuge: beach, dune, marsh, and scrub forest. Come dressed for the weather. If the weather is completely unsuitable for outdoor enjoyment, an indoor program comprised of crafts, games, and a story will be held instead. Enrollment is limited to 12 children. The parent or guardian must remain for the entire program. **Preregistration is required for this program.**

Nelson Island Tour

Monday, September 11th & Friday, September 22nd; both from 10:00 - 11:30 am

Explore another part of the refuge - this time, on the mainland. Join a ranger for a tour of a beautiful spot that few people visit: Nelson Island. If we're lucky, we might catch a glimpse of a nesting osprey. Learn about the history of this little known refuge jewel. If weather and tide permits, we'll take a very short walk along the marsh. (Muddy, wet areas are possible so rubber boots are recommended.) Consider bringing binoculars and/or a camera. *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.**

Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Thursday, September 21st from Noon to 2:30 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 2.5 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 (PFD). Participant boats must be a minimum of 12 feet in length and have onboard flotation. It is recommended that participants bring 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 is required.**

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.