

News Release

978-465-5753; Fax: 978-465-2807; http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/

August 11, 2014

For Immediate Release

Contact: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge; Phone: (978)-465-5753

Refuge Will Issue Limited Number of Berry Picking Permits

Beach plum and cranberry picking has a long history on Plum Island. And it's an activity that continues today at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Beginning on Monday, August 25th, those interested in picking beach plums and/or cranberries on the refuge will be able to pick up a free permit at the refuge headquarters during normal business hours (8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday). A total of 50 permits will be issued this year. The number of permits issued in a given year is based on the abundance and quality of the fruit. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. This year there will be a specific collection period for each of the two berries. Beach plums may be picked August 25th thru October 31st. Cranberries may be picked October 13th thru November 30th. More specific details will be made available at the time the permits are issued.

Refuge headquarters is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. Those with further questions about berry collecting should contact the refuge at (978) 465-5753.

-FWS-