



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs! *Parker River National Wildlife Refuge* **September -2013**

REGISTRATION

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and also insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information: <http://parkerriver.fws.gov> or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Please note: If a program requires pre-registration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

“Behind the Scenes” Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturdays - September, 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 9:30 am; Sundays - September 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 1:00 pm. Tours last approximately 2 hours.

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 Headquarters visitor center. Each session is limited to 10 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 having received a confirmation call back from a refuge staff member. Please call 978-465-5753; to register for this program.

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Exploring the Refuge by Kayak

Tuesday, September 10th at 1:00 pm

Saturday, September 21st at 11:00 am (rain date: Sunday, September 22nd at 11:45 am)

Wednesday, September 25th at 2:00 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 (PFD). 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. PFDs must be worn by all program participants. 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.**

Nature Kids!

Tuesdays - September 10th and 24th, from 11:00 am to Noon

A new fun class geared towards 4-6 yr olds. This class is run by one of our dedicated volunteers who is a retired school teacher. Classes about nature and common backyard animals and plants are featured in this bi-monthly program. Each class is different and children do not need to attend previous classes in order to participate. ***The September 10th class will focus on animals and their hearing adaptations; the September 24th session will focus on their sight adaptations. The class is limited to 15 children aged 4-6 yrs old.*** A parent or guardian must be present throughout the one hour session. Call for reservations. Meet at the refuge visitor center and headquarters. Activities will be held in the classroom.

Digital Photography 101 for Newbies!

Saturday, September 14th at 9:30 - 11:00 am

This free presentation is for the person who owns a digital camera (of any variety), but either doesn't know how to use it, or has been frustrated with their results. The presentation will provide a broad overview of the entire "digital workflow" – from taking the picture to editing images on a computer. Practical tips for achieving compelling images of nature and wildlife will be shared during the session. The presentation will occur in the refuge's visitor center auditorium. Preregistration is not required.

Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, September 14th at 1:30 pm

A new nature and wildlife photography club has formed at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge! Anyone with an interest in nature, wildlife, and photography is invited to attend our next general meeting, which will take place in the refuge visitor center auditorium in Newburyport on Saturday, September 14th at 1:30 pm. The **featured speaker will be Michael Milicia**, a very talented nature and wildlife photographer. His amazing images of birds, in particular, are not to be missed, as you will see immediately upon visiting his web site: <http://www.michaelmiliciaphotography.com/index.php>. Other agenda items will include our monthly *Show & Share* slide show – comprised of members' images, set to music – and an update about the photo contest and upcoming *Phabulous Photo Weekend*.

The Photographic Society welcomes one and all – from beginners to professionals. The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include 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. **Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.** Please call (978) 465-5753 for more information about the Photographic Society.