

Press Release

Family Interpretive Day at Outer Island, Stony Creek CT
A Unit of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

Family Interpretive Day July 30, 2011 9:30 AM -1:30 PM

The US Fish and Wildlife Service together with the Friends of Outer Island invite families to learn about the marine ecosystem at Outer Island during a fun hands-on one-day program.

Visitors will discover the marine plant and animal life under rocks and in tide pools; they will use nets to find small organisms that thrive in the waters of Long Island Sound. They can view sea birds with binoculars and scopes and capture images with digital cameras. Games and prizes together with science explorations will motivate everyone to have fun as they become familiar with the Refuge.

US Fish and Wildlife Officers will explain the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System and the units across Connecticut while The Friends of Outer Island will lead the lessons and activities. A newly completed educational pavilion and lab at Outer Island will serve as a perfect setting for the up-coming Family Day.

The event is FREE and open to the public with pre-registration limited to 25 participants. Please go to www.friendsofouterisland.org and click on link to *Family Interpretive Day* to register. Families with children ages 8 and up are welcome.

Water transportation will be provided by US Fish and Wildlife Service boat leaving the Stony Creek Town Dock at 9:30 AM and returning by 1:30 PM. Participants must wear sturdy shoes and bring a picnic lunch. In case of stormy weather, the event will be cancelled. Notice of cancellation will be posted on the Friends of Outer Island website.

For further information contact Shaun Roche at the The Stewart B. McKinney National Fish and Wildlife Office 860 399-2513.

Caption: Invasive Asian shore crabs found under the rocks on Outer Island enjoy a meal of fresh mussels. Participants will investigate the habitat of these small crabs during Family Day on July 30.

Credit: Virginia Baltay Photo

