

Westport's Horseneck Point Life-saving station open house and photographic scavenger hunt on Columbus Day Weekend

Weekend festivities will be capped with Photographic Scavenger Hunt.

The historic Horseneck Point Life-Saving Station (LSS) will be open to the public on Columbus Day Weekend (Oct. 12-12) for visitors to delve into the area's maritime past, learn about the plants and animals that call Buzzards Bay its home and discover the scenic beauty of the coast.

The Life-Saving station, which is now located near the causeway to Gooseberry Island, will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday through Monday for adults and families interested in learning about the Bay's treacherous entrance, and the history of oil spills and accidents that have driven recent successes in environmental protection.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the center will host a special program, a Photographic Scavenger Hunt, that takes a playful approach to learning about and practicing the art of nature photography. This activity, which will be led by photographer Greg Stone, is free. However, space is limited and registration is required.

Built in 1888 to protect sailors along this dangerous stretch of Buzzards Bay's coastline, the Horseneck Point Life-Saving Station was restored and reopened as a visitor center in 2009 by the Westport Fishermen's Association. Today, the Lifesaving Station is managed by the Buzzards Bay Coalition, following

the Coalition's merger with the Westport Fishermen's Association.

Admission to the Life-Saving station is free. In keeping with current public health regulations, however, all visitors will be asked to wear a mask while inside the station. In addition, visitors may be asked to wait outside if the building is at capacity.

The Horseneck Point Life-Saving Station is typically open to the public seasonally from June through September, and hosts select programs throughout the fall and winter, such as the Photographic Scavenger Hunt scheduled for Monday.

Individuals who register for the nature photography program will receive pre-program guidance on the day's activities. At the start of the session, the group will gather with Greg Stone at the Gooseberry Island parking lot at 9 a.m. for guidance and tips on what to look for and how to capture well composed photographs. Participants will then "scavenge" Gooseberry Island for photos to fulfill their assignment—and learn by doing.

During or after the hunt, participants may stop by the Horseneck Point Life-Saving Station for refreshments. Participants will be able to share favorite images in a Facebook Group open only to those who are registered for the event.

For more information about the Photographic Scavenger Hunt or to register, visit savebuzzardsbay.org/events.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. The Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all

through education, conservation, research and advocacy, and is supported by more than 10,000 members.