



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Silvio O. Conte

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Happenings: November 2024

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge presently includes twenty-three different divisions and units, located in the four primary Connecticut River watershed states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge is located in ten locations on the mainland and near shore islands along the northern shore of the Long Island Sound in Connecticut.

UMass Students Lend A Hand

For several years, the Conte Refuge has participated in a community service project organized by a University of Massachusetts professor as part of her Natural Resource Conservation Course. This month, two groups of students chose to work at the Fannie Stebbins Unit, helping with much needed trail maintenance. Members of the Friends of Fannie Stebbins coordinated the event, communicating directly with the students, overseeing the work, and even providing lunch for the team. Over the two days the students volunteered, they made incredible strides in clearing paths, adding benches, fixing boardwalks for visitors who use the refuge.



For more information contact: Jennifer_Lapis@fws.gov

Photo: Friends of Fannie Stebbins



Photo: Environment For the Americas

World Migratory Bird Day 2025 !

Environment For The Americas has announced the theme of the 2025 World Migratory Bird Day! The campaign, *Shared Spaces: Creating Bird Friendly Cities and Communities* will focus on creating environments that can better support migratory bird populations, from rural farmlands to bustling cityscapes. Conte Refuge has two designated Urban Bird Treaty Cities within its boundaries, Hartford, CT and Springfield, MA. Moving north along the watershed, The Friends of Pondicherry have already started planning for their annual WMBD event for May 2025. Stay tuned for updates and details of this worthy celebration.

For more information contact: Steve_Agius@fws.gov



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Silvio O. Conte

National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Happenings: November 2024

Wetland Managers Visit Fort River

A group from the National Association of Wetland Managers visited the Fort River Division as part of a regional workshop they were attending in the local area. Partners Biologist Dave Sagan spoke with the group, explaining wetland habitat restoration practices at both the Fort River Division and Fannie Stebbins Unit. The group was comprised of wetland scientists from federal and state agencies, as well as municipal and non-profit groups.

For more information contact: David_Sagan@fws.gov



Photo: USFWS



Photo: USFWS

What's In A Boat?

Staff from Conte Refuge joined Regional Heavy Equipment Manager Darren Stover at the Conway, MA elementary school for a "show and tell" with some of the equipment we use in habitat restoration projects around the region. Students learned about different types of habitat, the animals that live there, and the reasons and benefits behind the restoration work we perform. The students were thrilled to explore the electrofishing boat, airboat, and marsh master as part of the program.

For more information contact: David_Sagan@fws.gov