



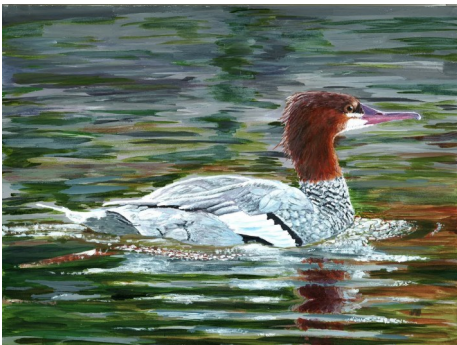
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Happenings

March 2023: *The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge is presently located in twenty-two different locations 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.*

And The Winner Is...



Ezra Goss, a student at the Lyndon Institute won the Vermont Best of Show for the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. On March 29th, the judging for the art contest took place at the Fairbanks Museum in Saint Johnsbury, Vermont. Ezra's painting of a common merganser will compete in the National Junior Duck Stamp art contest later this year.

For more information contact: Steve_Agius@fws.gov

Photo Credit: Ezra Goss

Mascoma Site Assessment



In March, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Realty Specialist and Conte Refuge staff conducted a site visit of Mascoma River Division and the Bearhill Conservancy in New Hampshire. The seasonable weather conditions allowed for covering a considerable amount of the refuge with a snowmobile. The Mascoma River Division grew by more than 300 acres in March. The current acreage of the Mascoma River Division is 2,800 acres.

For more information contact: Steve_Agius@fws.gov

Photo Credit: USFWS



Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

March 2023

Keeping Up With The Fences



Refuge staff upgraded an electric fence at the Fannie Stebbins Unit this month. Additional wires were added to the fence to keep deer out of the fields, and prevent them from browsing the branches and damaging trees planted to restore the floodplain forest. Male deer (bucks) can cause additional damage by rubbing their antlers on trunks in the fall to remove the velvet covering.

For more information contact: Dean_Rhine@fws.gov

Photo Credit: USFWS

Take A Ride On The Marshmaster!



The Marshmaster was recently upgraded with passenger rails and seats. Gary Galvagni, of Industrial Sheet Metals, provided the upgrades to the machine. The Marshmaster is used for habitat management activities, including invasive plant control and controlled burns, and is designed to operate in wetlands and marshes.

For more information contact: Dean_Rhine@fws.gov

Photo Credit: USFWS

Maintaining Safe Trails



Keeping the Fort River Birding and Nature Trail free of hazards requires continual maintenance. Conte Refuge Maintenance Worker Chad Rodrick identifies trees that could potentially become hazardous, and removes them before any damage occurs or people get hurt. This month Chad removed a few trees from the edges of the trail.

For More information contact: Dean_Rhine@fws.gov

Photo Credit: USFWS



Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

March 2023

Signs Of Spring



It's that time of year when small signs of spring are all around us. At the Conte Refuge that means the first sightings of red-winged black birds, the sounds of spring peepers in the wetlands, and the bits of green poking out from the browns of the forest floor, such as the bloodroot plant in this photo. Visiting any of the Conte Refuge locations will awaken all of our senses as we spend valued time outside. Welcome Spring!

Photo Credit: Bloodroot plant/ USFWS

All About Fish



Students at DeBerry and Pottenger Elementary schools in Springfield, MA learned about different types of fish, and fish anatomy during the winter session of the Springfield Parks and Recreation Department's after school program. Using life-sized fish replica pillows of the large-mouth bass, students identified basic parts of the fish by pinning labels onto the correct anatomical part. Students also used skills from a previous lesson and read a map of the fishable water bodies found in Springfield, MA. At the end of the lesson, students made their own fish prints using the traditional Japanese art form of Gyotaku.

For more information contact: Tasha_Daniels@fws.gov

Photo Credit: USFWS

Saying Goodbye: Paul Thibodeau Retires



In March, after 14 years of federal employment, Paul Thibodeau retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For the last four years Paul split his time between Umbagog NWR (NH) and the Nulhegan Basin Division (VT) of the Conte Refuge. Paul is a skilled heavy equipment operator and was instrumental in maintaining the refuge's equipment, buildings and road infrastructure. Paul was a reliable member of the Conte team and will be missed.

For More information contact: Steve_Agius@fws.gov

Photo Credit: USFWS