



THE ROOKERY



Fall, 2023

Welcome to the first issue of *The Rookery*, a newsletter for the young (or young at heart) about our beautiful Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. What is a rookery? A rookery is a group of nesting birds. At the refuge, there was once the largest Great Blue Heron rookery in Vermont with up to 600 nesting herons! In recent years, however, the rookery has been overtaken by Bald Eagles, which offer a different, yet amazing, sight. Young birds are raised in rookeries. We encourage young people to grow and learn and enjoy the many joys of nature here at the refuge.



Fall is a busy time at the Refuge! Bird migration is at its peak and there is a lot to see. Thousands of ducks, geese, and other waterbirds take "refuge" here along with many migrating songbirds. Borrow some binoculars from refuge headquarters and see what you can find. Use the Merlin App to help you with identification. Keep a list and draw what you see. Share with us at the Refuge Headquarters!

5 Trails to Explore!



Walk all 5 trails and get a badge!

Become an Agent of Discovery!

Download the free app and become a top-secret agent ready to solve mysteries of the natural world. Begin your adventure here at the Refuge!



Pick up at Headquarters:

- A Scavenger Hunt
- Nature Bingo
- Coloring Book
- Stickers

Borrow:

- Binoculars
- Backpacks with gear for exploring





Meet Nicholas. Nicholas is 8 years young and is an extremely active Cub Scout. We caught up with Nicholas on the Old Railroad Passage at the Friend's Trail Maintenance Day this Spring. He was there with his mom, loppers in hand, working hard towards a new badge, the Messengers of Peace. Nicholas knows all of the refuge trails, as he and his family are local residents and visit the refuge often to walk their dog. According to Nicholas, the Stephen Young Marsh Trail is probably his favorite because, being a herp guy, he loves to look for

salamanders in the wet spots. He may love his snakes and salamanders, but Nicholas knows his birds too and rattled off a dozen or so that he has seen on the refuge. His favorite thing about Missisquoi is just being able to take a walk outside and find something new. We certainly appreciate Nicholas's time and energy for a few hours of trail maintenance and wish him the best of luck on receiving his Messengers of Peace badge! If you see Nicholas out on the trails, stop and say hello!

CHARLEY ENJOYING THE DISCOVERY TRAIL

(REMINDER: USE ONLY
LEAVES THAT HAVE
FALLEN TO THE GROUND)



CHECK OUT OUR GIFT SHOP AT HEADQUARTERS

BOOKS
T-SHIRTS
HATS
PINS
AND MORE!



TRY THIS NATURE CRAFT!

SHARE YOUR PIC WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

(@Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge)



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FIND THE ACORN



Help the squirrel find his acorn.
Count by 2's and follow the correct path.

