



MISSISQUOI MATTERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF
MISSISQUOI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Spring 2026



Spring Activities Schedule at Missisquoi NWR 29 Tabor Road, Swanton, VT 05488



*Join us to celebrate
birds and art at World
Migratory Bird Day
Weekend on the
Missisquoi National
Wildlife Refuge!*

This year, on May 9th and 10th, the Friends of Missisquoi will once again join in celebrating World Migratory Bird Day. Plans are in progress to host a full weekend of art and nature experiences. As with past years, Missisquoi's celebration will not only celebrate the day, but will span the entire weekend. It promises to be a great time to come out to enjoy the refuge as the birds return.

By participating in scheduled events or venturing out on the trails independently, you can help make it another successful weekend of eBird data collection. Either way, you will be contributing to our many years of documenting which birds utilize the refuge during migration. Trails are open from sunrise to sunset. As you participate as a community scientist for the refuge, please stay on the open trails and waterways and be careful not to venture into any of the restricted areas.

Some events require registration and, unless otherwise noted, you can find registration information for Missisquoi World Migratory Bird Day events at <https://friendsofmissisquoi.org/birdweekend/>

Live Painting Tutorial

Friday, May 8th, 5:00 pm - The week-end kicks off with a Live Painting Tutorial. This year's Painting Tutorial is in honor of birds found on the refuge. The subject is the Great Blue Heron. Join us and paint your own masterpiece! All the materials to paint this 16" x 20" acrylic on canvas project are supplied, and complete instruction will be provided by Jon Young of Jon Young Artworks. All you do is register and get ready for creative fun!



Each person interested in attending will need to fill out a separate registration. To cover supplies, there is a suggested donation of \$20 to the Friends of Missisquoi for participation. Donations can be made at the time of the event. This class will have a limited number of registrants, so register at the Friends of Missisquoi website (<https://friendsofmissisquoi.org/birdweekend/>) to save your spot!

Meet the Artist Reception

Friday, May 8th, 7:00 pm - Immediately after the Live Painting Tutorial, there will be a Meet The Artist Reception where local artists, whose works will be displayed in the Missisquoi Artshow, showcase their refuge, habitat, and bird-themed art. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the artists' methods and ideas about their work. Pieces exhibited at the event will be available for purchase.

Missisquoi Artshow

May 9th thru July 10th - The 2025 Missisquoi Artshow will kick off on Saturday, May 9th! Enjoy the art of many talented local artists as they display their artwork inspired by local wildlife, habitats, and birds. All artwork will be displayed in the Visitor Center gallery until July 10th and can be viewed any time the Visitor Center is open (it is closed on weekends). Please call 802-868-4781 to confirm accessibility. The artwork is available for purchase.

Daybreak Bird-walk

Saturday, May 9th, 4:00 am - Join the Friends of Missisquoi NWR as they hold a daybreak bird-walk on the Maquam and Black Creek trails. The walk will commence at 4:00 am from the trail parking area, located on Rte. 78, approximately 2½ miles west of Swanton village. During the one-mile hike in the dark to Lookout Point, participants will be listening for owls and other nocturnal birds. Daylight birding will take place on the return trip back. Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Please register in advance for this walk at <https://friendsofmissisquoi.org/birdweekend/>.

Bird Walk with the Refuge Manager

Saturday, May 9th, 8:00 am - Saturday, May 9th, 8:00 am - Join the Missisquoi NWR Refuge Manager, Ken Sturm, for this spring bird walk on the refuge. Ken will lead a group to survey what birds are utilizing the habitats along the Old Railroad Passage Trail. This walk is appropriate for birders of all skill levels. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 8:00AM, about 1 mile south of the refuge Visitor Center on Tabor Rd. The walk will finish up at 10:00 am. Registration is not required.

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Monthly Bird-monitoring Walk

Saturday, May 9th, 8:00 am - Join the Friends of Missisquoi NWR for their monthly bird-monitoring walk on the Stephen J. Young Marsh Trail. This walk is appropriate for birders of all skill levels. Meet at the parking lot at 8:00 am, about 1 mile south of the refuge Visitor Center on Tabor Rd. The walk will finish up at 10:00 am. Registration is not required.

Birding Paddle on the Missisquoi

Saturday, May 9th, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, on the Missisquoi River

The Friends of Missisquoi NWR and The Northern Forest Canoe Trail will join forces to offer an afternoon of paddling, birdwatching, and learning on the Missisquoi River. This event is appropriate for paddlers and birders of all skill levels. Meet at 2:00 PM at the Mac's Bend parking area (go through the gate at Louie's Landing and drive about 1 mile north along the river). We will cancel for inclement weather. Registration is required. Visit <https://friendsofmissisquoi.org/birdweekend/> to register.

Beginner's Guided Bird Walk

Sunday, May 10th, 9:00 am - Bring Mom out for Mother's Day and join the Friends of Missisquoi NWR for a relaxing morning of birding geared specifically for beginners. This walk will be held on the Discovery Trail. Meet at the Visitor Center on Tabor Road at 9:00 am. Binoculars will be available for use. Please register in advance for this walk at <https://friendsofmissisquoi.org/birdweekend/>

Monthly Bird Monitoring Walks

Friends board members and birders extraordinaire Ken Copenhaver and Julie Filiberti lead the walks on various refuge trails beginning at 8 am on the **third Saturday of each month (except for December and May, when it is on the 2nd Saturday)**. The purpose of the walks is to gather long-term data on the presence of birds, their abundance, and changes in populations. Observations are entered into the Vermont eBird database. These walks are appropriate for birders of all skill levels and provide a wonderful opportunity to learn about birds throughout the seasons. Registration for the walks is not required

After 191 months of walks, we have recorded 167 species of birds. A new species, Sandhill Crane, was added on the November walk.

The schedule for the next three months is:

March 21st: Jeep Trail.

Meet at the Louie's Landing parking lot located on Rte. 78, approximately 3½ miles west of Swanton village. From there we will drive to the trail head at Mac's Landing.

April 18th: Old Railroad Passage Trail.

Meet at the parking lot on Tabor Rd, about a mile past the refuge Visitor Center

May 9th: Stephen Young Marsh Trail.

This walk is held in conjunction with the World Migratory Bird Day weekend. Meet at the parking lot on Tabor Rd, about a mile past the refuge Visitor Center and across the road from the marsh.





Missisquoi Matters

is the quarterly newsletter of the Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to promoting a better awareness, appreciation, conservation, and responsible utilization of the

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge.

29 Tabor Road, Swanton, VT 05488

(802) 868-4781 ext 121

www.friendsofmissisquoi.org

E-mail: info@friendsofmissisquoi.org

Newsletter edited by Al Crist

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Ken Sturm *Refuge Manager*

Judy Sefchick *Wildlife Biologist*

Chris Whitaker
Maintenance Mechanic

Green Up Day at the Refuge

Friday, May 1st, 9:00 am

Living in Vermont we all know about the annual Green Up Day, the first Saturday In May. It is a great way to give back to your community and a great way to make a difference. At Missisquoi we hold an annual Green Up Day each year as well, however we hold it on the first Friday of May, **this year on May 1st**. This way we can encourage community members to help clean up the National Wildlife Refuge and also participate in their local town or city Green Up Day event. Often refuge staff will drive boats up and down the river while volunteers walk the flood plain forest picking up trash which has floated downstream. Other times we focus on trail head parking lots and road shoulders. Either way, we end up leaving the refuge a little better than before. This year I hope you consider helping Green Up the refuge!



We will be meeting at the Louie's Landing Boat Launch off Route 78, about 3.5 miles west of Swanton at 9:00 am on May 1st. We will work until noon then break for lunch. Please dress for the weather and bring water to drink. We will have gloves, bags and other supplies for volunteers. For more information, please call the refuge office at 802-868-4781.

If and when new Refuge events are scheduled, they will be posted on the Friends website as soon as dates are known. To check for any schedule changes or additions, visit the Friends website at <https://www.friendsofmissisquoi.org> and click on "Calendar".

For more information about the refuge, visit <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/missisquoi>

Have you missed one of the great Zoom presentations sponsored by the Friends of Missisquoi? Would you like to re-watch the latest "Bird Tales", or other recent presentations?

Well, you're in luck! Check out our Friends of Missisquoi YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofmissisquoi1650/videos>



Submit your nature photos for our new 2027 Calendar!

The Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge invite you to submit your Vermont wildlife and nature photography for consideration in our 2027 calendar. The calendar will highlight the wildlife and lands of the refuge and proceeds from the sales of the calendar will support the work of the Friends. If your photography is selected for inclusion in the calendar, you will be credited in the calendar, have your work shared at the annual Refuge art show in May, and be celebrated in a future newsletter!

We're interested in submissions that feature Vermont wildlife and nature, especially species and environments found within the refuge, and were taken in Vermont. Preference will be given to

photos taken at the refuge.

Submissions are due by April 13th, 2026. To enter your photos, follow the instructions available at this QR code:



Who's Out & About on the Refuge?

Meet Brian Johnson. One day a few years back, Brian saw a post on Front Porch Forum about one of Dr. Fred Wiseman's Zoom presentations on the Abenaki in the region. That advertisement led him to the Friends of Missisquoi website where he noticed that the Friends were holding monthly bird monitoring walks. Being curious about the terrain and habitats north of his home in Grand Isle, he made it a point to join in on one of the walks. Brian had always had an interest in the birds in his backyard, but he found that participating in the group walk opened up his eyes to the wider aspects of birding, especially using bird songs to identify species. In addition to gaining new knowledge about the birds, he also enjoyed the social aspects of birding with a group. He's found that being able to learn and share his own knowledge has been quite fun, and doing community science through eBird has been a bonus as well!

In addition to birds, Brian also has a deep interest in astronomy. Having a life-long fascination with the night sky, he came across the Vermont Astronomical Society over 20 years ago. Through that organization, he discovered he had a passion for doing public outreach events, or what is also called Sidewalk Astronomy, where he uses his

telescope to share his "Secret Window" into the sky with other people. He reached out to the Friends with an idea to give back to the community as a means of showing his appreciation of all he personally gains from the refuge. Missisquoi After Dark events were born, and when the skies cooperate, you will find Brian there on the refuge, opening up new eyes to the wonders of the night sky.



Refuge Managers Update - February, 2026



Some winters are better than others. If you are like me, a winter that is snowy and cold enough that we keep the snow on the ground is a great winter. Sure enough, that is what we have had for the last few months.

Unfortunately, the great snow cover was coupled with extremely cold temperatures that made enjoying the snow a bit less enticing! However, the cold weather has made for excellent ice conditions. In fact, on February 13th it was announced that Lake Champlain had officially frozen over for the first time since 2019.

The good ice cover allows refuge staff and volunteers to complete field work in the wetlands, and we take advantage of these conditions when possible. The frozen wetlands and river allow the refuge staff to more easily check and maintain waterfowl nesting structures on the delta. Refuge volunteers conduct annual muskrat and beaver lodge surveys in areas of the refuge when the ice is safe to traverse. And our maintenance mechanic, Chris Whitaker, took advantage of the ice at Stephen Young Marsh to begin installing posts for a new “beaver deceiver.” We will install fencing around the posts in the spring to prevent beavers from plugging up the water control structure which otherwise is an almost daily maintenance need.

by Ken Sturm, Refuge Manager, Missisquoi NWR

Winter is also a great time for the refuge staff to begin thinking about the upcoming field season. Our biologist, Judy Sefchick, secured funding for this field season to continue the native bee monitoring project at Stephen Young Marsh. This project is designed to monitor native bee use and abundance in areas that are in different stages of woody plant re-growth. Luckily, it also provided funding for a seasonal biological technician who we hope have at the refuge in mid-April!

I have also been able to continue meeting with students during the winter months to connect them to the refuge system and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Each year I team up with a biologist from the USFWS Partners Program to meet with UVM students to discuss careers and the application process for federal employment. We have also begun discussing a possible project for a master’s degree student from SUNY Plattsburg for this summer, and I will soon be visiting the Saint Albans City School to talk to 5th graders about bird conservation!

So, winter has been snowy and cold, but also busy for us here at the Missisquoi NWR. We may have even snuck out for a lunchtime cross-country ski on the Discovery Trail once or twice! If you haven’t visited the refuge in the winter, now is the time! Grab some snowshoes or cross-country skis and visit one of our five trails to explore the refuge in winter.

FRIENDS OF MISSISQUOI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

BI-MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Wednesday, July 8th, 2026 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

email info@friendsofmissisquoi.org if you’d like to attend via Zoom

Members are always welcome & encouraged to attend.

Mind on Muskrats

by Judy Sefchick, Wildlife Biologist, Missisquoi NWR



It's February and winter is in full swing. At the refuge, I observe the sights of the season; some good, others bad, and a few downright ugly! Whether it's a brown blob on the snow, refuge volunteers on the ice, or a snowy wing print

near a grotesque gutted mess, my mind turns to muskrats and their endless unique winter challenges.



As humans, we tend to spend winter days in relative comfort, going from heated buildings to heated vehicles, to heated grocery stores, and homes. Muskrats, on the other hand, remain active in wetlands, enduring whatever winter has to offer *beneath* the ice. Since hibernation isn't on the agenda, muskrats start winter preparations before the cold arrives. These clever, cold-water engineers dig a series of shallow, interconnected channels to use for easy underwater travel, escape from predators, and access to deeper water feeding areas. At one end of a channel, muskrats build a house from the bottom up, by stacking wild rice and other aquatic plants with the mud dug from channels. The resulting dome is a miniature marshy Taj Mahal, stretching three to four feet high and a foot or more in diameter, with under

water entrances connecting to channels, and one or two dry living chambers above the water line! Since they don't store food, muskrats venture out to find food all winter long. They swim, dive, and dig roots and tubers under the ice, before going back to the safety and warmth of their houses to eat.



Don't let a muskrat's appearance fool you. This critter is an extreme athlete who can free-dive while holding its breath underwater for fifteen minutes or more! It's quite a feat since the average human can only hold their breath for 30 to 90 seconds, while most trained free-diving athletes can hold their breath for 3 to 5 minutes.

Making multiple trips for food expends an enormous amount of energy, so it's no wonder muskrats need to consume about one-third of their body weight in calories daily. If a muskrat is forced to travel further to find food, it builds a miniature home away from home (called a push-up), that offers protection for feeding and a place for the muskrat to catch its breath. Push-ups are simply holes in the ice, with vegetation pushed through, to keep them from refreezing solid. No ice augers are needed - muskrats can chew holes in the ice with their teeth!

During an especially hard *Continued >> page 8*

winter, like this one, food becomes scarce and muskrats are seen wandering on land. An above-ice excursion is risky and usually a last-ditch effort for the muskrat to find food. Unfortunately, brown blobs tend to stand out in a stark winter landscape, so muskrats that don't succumb to the cold may be eaten by mink, otter, coyotes, owls, or other predators. Some years, half of a muskrat population can be dead by mid-winter. Finding grotesque gutted messes (identified only by the remaining tail) in the snow tells the muskrat's perilous story.



For the refuge, counting muskrat houses in winter provides an estimate of their population. If you see hardy, half-frozen refuge volunteers Paul Madden and Beth Deimling trudging on ice-covered wetlands, that's what they are doing! Many muskrat houses in a wetland suggest a robust local population and a functioning wetland ecosystem. A long-term decrease in houses over

years may indicate a drop in the muskrat population or a decline in wetland quality (i.e., lack of aquatic vegetation for food). Since muskrat populations have declined nationwide recently for unknown reasons, keeping track of their numbers is more important than ever. The next time you see a muskrat, remember to applaud it for being an architect, engineer, extreme athlete, and a necessary part of any wetland ecosystem.



The pictures accompanying this story were generously shared by Ed Kanze, an Adirondacks naturalist, guide, and photographer. You can see more of his incredible photography at <https://www.edkanze.com/news>. Explore his website at <https://www.edkanze.com/>

Also, visit <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmissisquoi> to learn more about the refuge and coming events. You can also look at, comment on, and share your own photos.



Have You Thought About Becoming a Refuge Volunteer?

We are once again asking our community to support the refuge by volunteering with us this field season. We have had a wonderful group of volunteers over the years and hope to continue this extremely valuable support to the refuge this year.

A few things we need help with are recurring throughout the year:

Front Desk Volunteers:

- We are looking for several volunteers to work at the refuge's visitor's center during the work week. This involves answering questions from visitors in the center and on the phone and periodic office work. We also ask these volunteers to open the Friends Bookstore which directly supports refuge projects. If you enjoy meeting new people and answering their nature and refuge specific questions, then this job can be quite rewarding.

Trail Work Volunteers:

- We are always looking for individuals who would like to maintain trails. This involves weed trimming with a string trimmer, light carpentry repair work on board walks, moving rock to improve trail surfaces and pruning back trees and shrubs that are growing into the trail.

Water Chestnut Volunteers

- Every year we ask volunteers to accompany a staff member in boats to help hand pull invasive water chestnut rosettes. This project

occurs in mid to late summer and volunteers need to be flexible on timing as we only go out when weather conditions are appropriate.

There are other projects which are a one-time request for help. These are generally maintenance projects where more hands make the work go faster and easier! Examples for this field season include:

- Help with installation of the "beaver deceiver" at Stephen Young Marsh (you definitely will be getting wet!)
- Help with painting the outbuilding at Black Creek/Maquam Creek Trail.
- Help with installation of new roofing on a few kiosks and a pit toilet.
- Helping staff with boundary sign installation on the lake – this will involve using a sledgehammer to install signs along the refuge/ lake boundary.

The refuge staff will also periodically update the job whiteboard in the new volunteer tool shed, located near the northeast corner of the shop building. We will list needed jobs on the whiteboard that can be accomplished individually or with a small team of volunteers. In the shed you will find tools to help do trail and other maintenance projects on the refuge. If interested please reach out to our volunteer Volunteer Coordinator Al Crist at : **volunteer.mnwr@gmail.com**

And the Friends are Seeking Two Volunteers

Treasurer Needed: After many years of dedicated service to our organization, Catherine Waltz will be stepping back from her role as treasurer. Our deepest thanks for all you have done for the Friends group and the refuge, Cathy.

If you have a strong interest in the well-being of the refuge, and the skills to help out with the

treasurers role on our board, please email President Rich Kelly at info@friendsofmissisquoi.org

The Friends would also like to recruit a person with grant writing skills to help with writing the yearly invasive species grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. If interested, please contact Rich Kelly at the email address listed above.

Birding Q & A

by Ken Copenhaver

Q. While doing a Feeder watch for a Winter Bird Count, I saw a bird that I thought was a Chipping Sparrow. How is the best way to tell a Chipping Sparrow from a Tree Sparrow?

A. Chipping Sparrow vs American Tree Sparrow is one of the tougher feeder bird IDs (along with House Finch vs. Purple Finch, but that's a topic for another day).

First, I would consider the time of year. In Vermont, Chipping Sparrows are generally summer birds and Tree Sparrows are winter birds, with some overlap in spring and fall when both can be present. This observation was in early January, which would be very late for Chipping Sparrow. However, a species search in eBird shows a few reports in January in Vermont, mostly in the Champlain Valley and along rivers, but not in higher elevations. There are also reports from the Montreal area and along the St. Lawrence River. Conversely, Tree Sparrows, which breed in Hudson Bay latitudes, are never reported in Vermont from June to September. So, identifying a Chipping Sparrow in January requires close observation.

The first thing most people look for is a breast spot. The Tree Sparrow has a dark spot on a nearly-white breast. The Chipping Sparrow has a clear, grayish breast. However, sometimes the breast spot of the Tree Sparrow can be hard to see either because of the bird's position, lighting, or the feathers being fluffed, and on some light individuals, the spot can be quite subtle.

The next thing many people look at is the bill color. The Tree Sparrow's bill is black above and orangish below, while the Chipping Sparrow has a pinkish bill. If you can see the bill color clearly, this difference is diagnostic. However, you must have a good view and good lighting to distinguish bill color.

Another difference that might help is size. The Chipping Sparrow is smaller than the Tree

Sparrow, but not by a lot. So if you see a smaller sparrow in a flock of Tree Sparrows, look closely to see if it's a Chipping Sparrow. However, the size of a bird is notoriously hard to determine without something to compare it to.

The feature I look for first is the color of the face. The Tree Sparrow's face is gray both above and below the thin rufous eye-line. The Chipping Sparrow (during breeding season) has a gray cheek and a white eyebrow stripe above a black eye-line, with no gray above the eye-line. In non-breeding season, the white eyebrow stripe is more of a buff color. Use a field guide to compare the faces and concentrate on the differences.

There are other subtle differences, such a white eye arc on the Chipping vs. a full white eye-ring on the Tree; a brighter rufous color on the cap and wings of the Tree. But these are difficult to pick out.

And then there is the "jizz" of the bird. (Jizz is the common pronunciation of GISS, the "General Impression of Size and Shape.") I consider the Tree Sparrow to be the "best-dressed" bird at my feeders, with their clearly-delineated rufous wing feathers and rufous cap. Pete Dunn (in his book "Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion") says, "Don't sweat the details. You want to identify adult Chipping Sparrows? Just look at the face. The expression is smug." Maybe "best-dressed" and "smug" don't work for you, but I encourage you to come up with your own jizz for these and other birds to help you learn to "recognize" versus "identify" birds.



Invasive Plant Control in 2025

The Friends of Missisquoi NWR and refuge volunteers have worked with the refuge to control riparian and wetland invasive species since 2007. The main riparian culprits include Phragmites grass, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and yellow iris. Invasive water chestnut is by far the most troublesome wetland invasive species. Although the seed is edible, it's not the water chestnut commonly used in Chinese cuisine. Chinese water chestnut, an aquatic sedge, produces the edible corms that are a familiar ingredient in Chinese food. It is a tropical non-hardy plant.

The refuge uses a two pronged approach to control these invasive species, with different strategies for the riparian invasives vs. the one big wetland invasive: water chestnut. Refuge staff, refuge volunteers, commercial contractors, the Friends of Missisquoi, and the Lake Champlain Basin Program all play a critical role in control of riparian and wetland invasives.

Last year, for the 13th year, the Friends of Missisquoi NWR applied for and then received a \$10,000 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to be used in the control of riparian invasive species control. One of the requirements of the grant is that volunteers perform a certain amount of "in-kind services" that help in the control of invasives. Refuge volunteers scout the flood plain forests adjacent to the Missisquoi River to map where the riparian invasives are located. In 2025, volunteers spent over 60 hours scouting and mapping in the riparian areas. After the invasives are mapped, contractors are hired (using money from the Basin Program's grant) for control, mainly by herbicide application. Last year, 43 acres were treated for control of yellow iris, and five acres were treated for control of Phragmites and Japanese knotweed.

Relying on the Friends, volunteers, and commercial contractors for control of the riparian invasive species allows refuge staff (with the help of

refuge volunteers) to concentrate on the control of water chestnut.

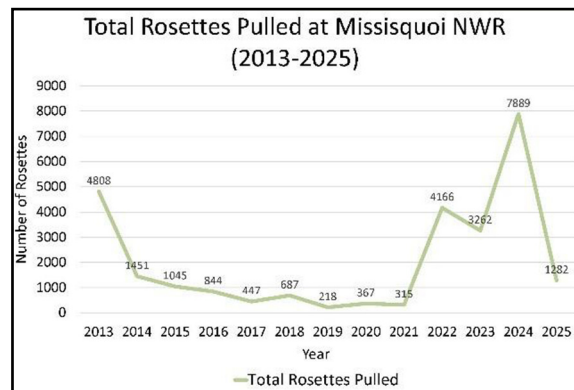
Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), also known as water caltrop, is a floating annual aquatic plant, growing in slow-moving freshwater up to 16 feet deep. It is native to warm temperate parts of Eurasia and Africa. It bears horned fruits and each fruit contains a single large seed. It has been cultivated in China and the Indian subcontinent for the edible seeds for at least 3,000 years.

First introduced to Lake Champlain in the 1940s, it forms dense surface mats, crowding out other plant species, disrupting habitat, and severely limiting recreational enjoyment and commercial use of the lake in some areas. Water chestnut grows each year from distinctive spiny seeds which are the key to controlling the spread of the plant. If the plants are removed from the lake before the seeds are dropped, water chestnuts can be eliminated.

This was the 13th year of intensive water chestnut control on the refuge. Refuge staff and volunteers use shallow water boats to survey and then hand pull water chestnut rosettes. Trends for water chestnut control on the refuge generally show success.

Interested in helping? Contact volunteer Volunteer Coordinator Al Crist at

volunteer.mnwr@gmail.com



Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
29 Tabor Road
Swanton, VT 05488



Please tell us how to serve you better - The Friends of Missisquoi NWR Board is eager to know more about the kind of programs, outings, or activities you would like to have offered on or about the refuge. Please email your suggestions and comments to info@friendsofmissisquoi.org. Thanks!

Yes! I want to support the Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge and its programs with my membership. My dues include a subscription to Missisquoi Matters and a 10% discount on items at the Friends Gift Shop. Enclosed is my contribution of:

Membership Level

- \$10 Student
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Family / Classroom
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Steward
- \$250 Life / Business
- \$1000 Patron

Would you like to receive your newsletter by postal mail or by email? Please circle one:
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(Your email address will not be shared with any other organization. We would like to be able to contact members regarding last minute changes to Friends activities and events.)