



Winter/Spring Activities Schedule At Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge 29 Tabor Rd. Swanton, VT 05488

**Programs and tours are free but reservations are required.
Contact the refuge office at 802-868-4781 for more
information and to reserve your spot!**

Visitor Center Winter Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

Visitors are welcome to stop by anytime during these hours to view the many educational exhibits and to learn about refuge management programs and what's going on at the refuge to benefit both wildlife and people.

Winter is great time to visit Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. Trails are open to cross country skiing and snowshoeing all winter long. **All events and activities described in this schedule are provided free to the visiting public. Please contact the Refuge at 802-868-4781 for additional information and directions if needed.**

Missisquoi – A Haven For Wildlife, a 12 minute refuge video presentation, is shown on request to visitors.

DECEMBER 2008

Winter Wildlife Sleuths on the Old Railroad Passage Trail
Sunday, December 28, 2008 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Join Refuge Manager, Mark Sweeny for a leisurely cross country skiing glide along the Railroad Passage trail to Maquam Bay. This activity will provide an opportunity for visitors to record the sights, sounds, and signs of winter wildlife on this trail. Observations will be recorded and compared with results from similar activities planned for other refuge trails this winter. Do one, some, or all. The information recorded will be useful as we update trail information and orient visitors to the trail system.

This is a Friends Members only event, you must be a member of the Friends of Missisquoi NWR to participate. We'll go on cross country skis (bring your own) if snow conditions will allow, otherwise boots will be necessary. **RSVP to the Refuge Headquarters at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 12 people and will meet at the Refuge Headquarters at 29 Tabor Rd., Swanton. Call the day before the activity if there is any question about trail conditions.

JANUARY 2009

Winter Wildlife Sleuths on the Stephen Young Marsh Trail

Saturday, January 3 10:00 AM – Noon

Join Park Ranger, Dave Frisque for a leisurely snowshoe walk along the Stephen Young Marsh Trail. This activity will provide an opportunity for visitors to record the sights, sounds, and signs of winter wildlife on this trail. Observations will be recorded and compared with results from similar activities planned for other refuge trails this winter. Do one, some, or all. The information recorded will be useful as we update trail information and orient visitors to the trail system.

This is a Friends Members only event, you must be a member of the Friends of Missisquoi NWR to participate. We'll go on snowshoes (bring your own) if snow conditions will allow, otherwise boots will be necessary. **RSVP to the Refuge Headquarters at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 12 people and will meet at the Refuge Headquarters at 29 Tabor Rd., Swanton. Call the day before the activity if there is any question about trail conditions.

Maquam Creek/Black Creek Trail Walk

Saturday, January 10 10:00AM - Noon

Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Inc., Board President, Joe Belanger for a snowshoe tour of the Maquam/Black Creek Trails. Plan on about 2 hours for this outing on the Missisquoi NWR's oldest trail network. The terrain is flat and the pace will be leisurely. Dress for the weather and bring your own snowshoes, binoculars and cameras. Meet at the Black/Maquam trailhead parking lot off of Rt. 78 at 10:00 AM. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781** Limited to 15 people.

Maquam Creek/Black Creek Trail Walk

Tuesday, January 20 10:00 AM

Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Inc., Board President, Joe Belanger for a **weekday** snowshoe tour of the Maquam/Black Creek Trails. Plan on about 2 hours for this outing on the Missisquoi NWR's oldest trail network. The terrain is flat and the pace will be leisurely. Dress for the weather and bring your own snowshoes, binoculars and cameras. Meet at the Black/Maquam trailhead parking lot off of Rt. 78 at 10:00 AM. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people.

Winter Ecology Walk to Maquam Bog

Saturday, January 24, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Explore a portion of the Maquam Bog with refuge volunteer Greg Simard. The Maquam Bog is a unique 900 acre habitat that is most easily accessible when the ground and surface water is frozen. If snow conditions are appropriate we recommend that participants wear snowshoes for this activity. Dress for the weather and it may be appropriate to bring a hydrating beverage and a snack as the walk will constitute a moderate to strenuous hike. Meet at the Tabor Rd parking lot on Tabor Rd. at 9:00 AM. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Walk is limited to 15

people and please bring your own snowshoes, binoculars and cameras.

Snowshoe Trek into Maquam Bog.

Saturday, January 31 9:00 AM – Noon

Join Refuge Maintenance Mechanic, Joe Bertrand for a winter nature walk in the Maquam bog, a unique habitat that is not available anywhere else in Vermont. Observe signs of different wildlife species such as muskrats, beaver, whitetail deer and resident songbirds. Participants need to be prepared for a moderate to strenuous hike over frozen ground and frozen surface water. Dress appropriately; bring your own snowshoes, binoculars and other equipment. Meet at Louies Landing parking area at 9:00 AM. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Snowshoe walk is limited to 15 people

FEBRUARY 2009

Stephen Young Marsh Walk

Saturday, February 7, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Join Refuge volunteer, Steve Vittum for a snowshoe excursion along the Stephen Young Marsh Trail. We will look for wildlife, wildlife tracks, and enjoy an easy, level trail as we pass through meadows, marsh, shrub land, forest, and managed woodcock habitat. Meet at the Headquarters building on Tabor Rd. Please bring your own snowshoes and other equipment. **Call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people.

Wood Duck Creek Walk (This is a Friends only Walk and you must be a member of the Friends of Missisquoi NWR to participate)

Saturday, February 14 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Inc., Board President, Joe Belanger for a snowshoe trek across the Missisquoi River to Wood Duck Creek. This outing provides an opportunity to explore a portion of the refuge that is generally not open to the public. This is a sun or snow event and all participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and must bring their own snowshoes, binoculars, and cameras. Pack a light snack and appropriate beverage for hydration. The pace will be leisurely to moderate. Meet at the Louies Landing Parking lot off of RT.78 **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people.

Owl Prowl Walk

Saturday February 21, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Join Refuge Volunteer, Jeremy Brooks for an opportunity to hear and possibly observe some of the resident nightlife at the Refuge. Owls such as the great horned owl, screech owl and barred owl remain active through the winter and can sometimes be observed and heard at different locations on the refuge. Explore the Jeep Trail for these nocturnal birds and possibly other winter wildlife species that are active during the evening hours. Dress for the weather and please bring your own equipment such as binoculars and flashlights. Participants are asked to bring a

low candlepower flashlight to minimize disturbance to any owl or other nighttime wildlife encountered. Meet at Louies Landing parking area adjacent to Rt 78 at 6:00 PM. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781** Limited to 12 people.

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Winter Wildlife Sleuths on the Discovery Trail

Saturday February 28, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join Administrative Support Assistant, Lisa Swainbank for a leisurely snowshoe walk along the one mile Discovery Trail. This activity will provide an opportunity for visitors to record the sights, sounds, and signs of winter wildlife on this trail. Observations will be recorded and compared with results from similar activities planned for other refuge trails this winter. Do one, some, or all. The information recorded will be useful as we update trail information and orient visitors to the trail system.

We'll go on snowshoes (bring your own) if snow conditions will allow, otherwise boots will be necessary. **RSVP to the Refuge Headquarters at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 12 people and will meet at the Refuge Headquarters at 29 Tabor Rd., Swanton. Call the day before the activity if there is any question about trail conditions.

MARCH 2009

Winter Wildlife Sleuth on the Black/Maquam Creek Trail

Saturday, March 7 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Join Refuge Biologist, Judy Sefchick-Edwards for a leisurely cross country skiing excursion along the 1 ½ mile Black/Maquam Creek Trail. This activity will provide an opportunity for visitors to record the sights, sounds, and signs of winter wildlife on this trail. Observations will be recorded and compared with results from similar activities planned for other refuge trails this winter. Do one, some, or all. The information recorded will be useful as we update trail information and orient visitors to the trail system.

We'll go on cross country skis (bring your own) if snow conditions will allow, otherwise boots will be necessary. **RSVP to the Refuge Headquarters at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 12 people and will meet at the Black/Maquam Trailhead off of RT. 78 Swanton. Call the day before the activity if there is any question about trail conditions.

Stephen Young Marsh Trail Walk

Saturday, March 14 10:00 AM - Noon

Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Board President, Joe Belanger for two hour snowshoe walk on the Stephen Young Marsh Trail. Explore the variety of habitats and wildlife species in those habitats as this one mile trail winds through grasslands, marsh, young hardwood stands and mature forests. The pace will be leisurely. Dress for the weather and bring your own snowshoes, binoculars and cameras. Meet at Tabor Rd. parking lot on Tabor Rd. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people

Owl Prowl Walk

Saturday, March 14 6:00 PM –9:00 PM

Join Refuge Volunteer, Jeremy Brooks for an opportunity to hear and possibly observe some of the resident nightlife at the Refuge. Owls such as the great horned owl, screech owl and barred owl remain active through the winter and can sometimes be observed and heard at different locations on the refuge. Explore the Black/Maquam Creek Trail for these nocturnal birds and possibly other winter wildlife species that are active during the evening hours. Dress for the weather and please bring your own equipment such as binoculars and flashlights. Participants are asked to bring a low candlepower flashlight to minimize disturbance to any owl or other nighttime wildlife encountered. Meet at the Black/Maquam Trailhead parking area adjacent to Rt 78 at 6:00 PM. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781** Limited to 12 people.

Stephen Young Marsh Trail Walk

Saturday, March 21 9:00 AM – 11:00AM

Join Refuge volunteer, Steve Vittum for a snowshoe excursion along the Stephen Young Marsh Trail. We will look for wildlife, wildlife tracks, and enjoy an easy, level trail as we pass through meadows, marsh, shrub land, forest, and managed woodcock habitat. Meet at the Headquarters building on Tabor Rd. Please bring your own snowshoes and other equipment. **Call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people.

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Winter Wildlife Sleuths on the Jeep Trail

Saturday, March 28 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Join Park Ranger, Dave Frisque for a leisurely snowshoe walk along the Jeep Trail. This activity will provide an opportunity for visitors to record the sights, sounds, and signs of winter wildlife on this trail. The trail parallels the Missisquoi River and winds through tall floodplain stands of cottonwood, silver maple and swamp white oak. Observations will be recorded and compared with results from similar activities planned for other refuge trails this winter. Do one, some, or all. The information recorded will be useful as we update trail information and orient visitors to the trail system.

We'll go on snowshoes (bring your own) if snow conditions will allow, otherwise boots will be necessary. **RSVP to the Refuge Headquarters at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 12 people and will meet at the Louies Landing Parking area off of RT. 78 in Swanton. Call the day before the activity if there is any question about trail conditions.

APRIL 2009

Old Railroad Passage Trail Walk

Saturday, April 11 10:00 AM

Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Board President, Joe Belanger for a 2 ½ hour walk along the Railroad Passage Trail. This trail moves through grassland habitat, along the edge of the Maquam bog and ends at a part of Lake Champlain called Maquam Bay. This leisurely early spring walk may provide observations of some of the more hardy returning migrant birds as well as resident wildlife as they begin to move from wintering areas to a wider variety of habitats. Dress for the weather and bring sturdy water proof boots for this walk. Meet at the Tabor Rd parking area on Tabor Rd. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people.

Old Railroad Passage Trail Walk

Tuesday, April 21 10:00 AM

Join Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Board President, Joe Belanger for a 2 ½ hour **weekday** walk along the Railroad Passage Trail. This trail moves through grassland habitat, along the edge of the Maquam bog and ends at a part of Lake Champlain called Maquam Bay. This leisurely early spring walk may provide observations of some of the more hardy returning migrant birds as well as resident wildlife as they begin to move from wintering areas to a wider variety of habitats. Dress for the weather and bring sturdy water proof boots for this walk. Meet at the Tabor Rd. parking area on Tabor Rd. **Please call for reservations at 802-868-4781.** Limited to 15 people.