

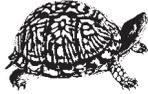


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

284 State St., 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04330 207-287-8000



September, 2015

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Maine Hosts Habitat Committee Meeting - *Written by Ryan B. Robicheau*

This past month, IFW hosted the 2015 annual meeting of the Northeast Habitat Technical Committee. This committee was established by the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to address issues associated with wildlife habitat throughout the northeast.

The Committee has seven of these issues it has been charged with tackling, ranging from assessing the need for a regional habitat database to the use of prescribed fire to manage wildlife habitat.

This year, the annual meeting was held August 11th, 12th and 13th in Orono. Although the meeting was held in Orono, time was spent in the field looking at wildlife habitat management practices in Maine. We took tours to the Frye Mountain Wildlife Management Area and to the Bud Leavitt Wildlife Management Area on the 11th and 12th. At each, we looked at management practices undertaken by the Department including early successional ("young forest"), spruce-fir management for Deer Wintering Areas, northern hardwood management, food plots, road maintenance, and public access improvements.

The chance for representatives from each of the 13 northeastern states to meet provides an excellent opportunity for habitat managers to see and hear about what other states are doing for wildlife habitat management.

Hosting the meeting requires an extra commitment to ensure a smooth process, and I'd like to thank those that assisted, either in providing logistical assistance or presenting projects they have been involved with in Maine: Joe Wiley, Kelley Boland, Eric Hoar, Mark Martin, Charlie Todd, Kelsey Sullivan and Keel Kemper.



BOW 2015 Introductory Skills Weekend Oct. 9-11

Hosted at the University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Bryant Pond

We are excited to announce that beginning this fall the Department will partner with the University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Bryant Pond to host all of the Becoming an Outdoors Woman in Maine workshops going forward. BOW will continue to offer workshops during the fall, winter, spring and summer.

Bryant Pond has hosted the winter skills workshop for the past four years and has a tremendous facility to offer a wide variety of outdoor skills. Bryant Pond and the Department share the same goal of getting youth, women and families into the outdoors. We are looking forward to continuing a great working relationship with Bryant Pond. You can register for the Fall Introductory Skills weekend online at:

<http://umaine.edu/bryantpond/bow-introductory-skills-weekend/>

or by calling 207-665-2068.

INFORMATION CENTER

In August the front office of the Department received and replied to (approx):

- 1,065 Phone calls
- 2,732 Emails
- 177 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

To view previous Weekly Reports, please visit www.mefishwildlife.com and select "About Us"



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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Swan Island

Maine Wildlife Park

MDIFW WALK-IN LOGO AT THE MAINE WILDLIFE PARK!!



Because so many of the 100,000+ annual visitors to the Maine Wildlife Park are unaware of the relationship to IFW, (as much as it is promoted park-wide) Park staff decided to create a 'walk-in' MDIFW logo to reinforce the IFW connection. Assistant Superintendent Howie Powell took on this (literally) ginormous project – here are some of the logo 'stats':

- Initially, Howie took about 3,000 measurements from a Department logo door sticker to engineer, build & paint the large scale logo proportionally
- Nearly 19' tall and 18' wide
- Weight is nearly 4 tons
- More than 26,000 fasteners holding it together
- 3 concrete footings - about 600 lbs each - anchoring it to the ground
- It's also anchored to the Visitor Center, but weighs so much that it began to literally pull the VC over when initially fastened – quick thinking on Howie's part remedied that issue.

Much of the background painting was done by Gamekeeper Amanda Cavanaugh - we had no idea she was such a talented artist. Stop in with your family and have a photo taken! It's been extremely popular!

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Game Warden Neal Wykes covered a personal injury ATV crash involving a side-by-side UTV that sent all three passengers to the hospital in Bridgton. Warden Wykes covers a very busy district to include the Sebago Lakes region. Everything from nuisance animals to boating law enforcement to search and rescue are often part of his day.

Game Warden Evan Ackley had a first-of-a-kind experience at the outlet of Clayton Lake when he inspected a 13 ½" brook trout that had eaten a mouse!

Game Warden Andrew Smart found two anglers fishing Mooseleuk Stream, a popular fly fishing only stream with an S-17 code and all salmon must be released alive. One angler had three short brook trout and two salmon. The other angler had two short trout and one salmon.

Game Warden's Sarah Miller, Peter Herring, Cody Louder, Jon Parker, and Cpl. Rick LaFlamme attended Camp North Woods at the University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond. The campers received instruction on various types of life jackets, throw rope rescues, and paddling a canoe. Amongst many games of marco-polo, the girls and boys also learned to shoot with compound bows, operate ATVs, and shoot with air rifles. The big hit was the trout pond. Our game wardens were very proud of the group and watched as they conquered their fears on the climbing wall and the aqua zip-line. A big thank you to Ron Fournier and the staff at Bryant Pond Camp who were the right people to help get this program off the ground!



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- The Commissioner facilitated a public hearing on August 5th to accept public comments on the Departments proposal for migratory bird hunting seasons and bag limits.
- On August 6th, the Commissioner and staff traveled to Pickerel Pond to the Maine Youth Fish & Game Association and held an Advisory Council meeting. The Council voted to adopt the 2015 any-deer permit allocations, 2015/16 migratory bird seasons and bag limits and amended rules regarding the trapping season. The next meeting will be held at IFW, 284 State St, Augusta on September 16th.
- The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and staff attended 2 employee recognition events in Milford and Durham. The events were well attended and congrats to all award recipients. We look forward to next year's events!
- A senior staff retreat was held on August 18th in Rangeley to discuss legislation from the past session and implementation of new laws.
- The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Assistant to the Commissioner traveled to Bangor to attend and address the wardens at the all-wardens meeting that was held on August 25th.

Some photos from our Employee Recognition Field Days!

Two Employee Recognition Field Days were held this year, with intentions of getting our staff and their families together, recognizing them for all their hard work, and showing them outdoor activities they may have never experienced before. We want to thank everyone who attended!

Awards:

Ken Anderson Award - *Thomas L. Schaeffer*
Teamwork Award - *SWAP Team (Charlie Todd, Philip DeMaynadier, Jason Czapiga, Amanda Shearin, Nate Webb)*

Employee of the Year:

Licensing & Registration - *Angel Truman*
Fisheries Division - *Jeremiah Wood*
Wildlife Division - *Beth Swartz*
Hatcheries Division - *Laird Townsend*
Administrative Support - *Kristina Paulhus*
Professional & Technical - *Bethany Atkins & Dana Duncan*



Charlie Mann came to teach fly tying!



RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Great gray owls are infrequent visitors to Maine and typically show up in winter when prey is scarce in their usual range further north. The Bird Group acquired a great gray owl specimen in February 2013 and had it skillfully mounted by Tom Berube to be used for education. We have offered it up to local schools on a rotational basis. It's first temporary home is the Orrington Public Library, housed in Center Drive School.



New blog post!

Species Spotlight:
Maine's "Night Ravens"
Written by Danielle D'Auria

<http://bit.ly/nightravens>

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Camp North Woods 2015 - Written by Britt Humphrey

Ninety-six lucky kids from across the country and Maine were chosen to attend the first summer of Camp North Woods.

Campers were able to experience a variety of outdoor activities from archery, shotgun, rifle, canoeing, ATV, rock climbing, fishing, trapping and much more! Warden mentors were onsite 24/7 to teach the campers all of these skills and the important roll they have in protecting Maine's natural resources as game wardens. Dates for Camp North Woods 2016 will be announced soon.

A big thank you to our sponsors for helping make Camp North Woods a success: Animal Planet, Engel Entertainment, Kittery Trading Post, Cabela's, Poland Spring, Gary Hilliard, Old Town Canoe & Kayak and LT's Inc.

A few remarks from parents...

"What a WONDERFUL experience my daughter had. I was worried about her being home sick at camp, but she ended up camp sick at home! She cried off and on most of the evening, poor peanut. She was begging me to take her back. :(She is proudly sporting her 'Team Herring' shirt today and refuses to let me wash it (I'll have to sneak it through the wash while she sleeps)."

-Meghan (mother of camper)

"My son Gavin was at Camp North Woods. Your team did an outstanding job. He loved every minute of the camp and the people. I attended the parents day/night and was truly impressed with the whole camp and program. We came from Illinois and I wasn't sure what to expect but it was amazing - Thank you so much to you & Ron."

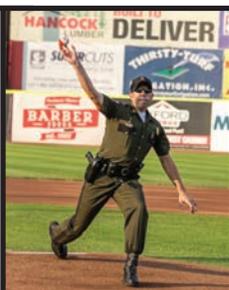
-Melissa (mother of camper)

"Thank you so much for helping to organize the North Woods Camp. My daughter Maggie had the best time and so did my husband Bill when he joined her on Friday. He said every detail was well attended to and he had one of the best days of his life! I am so grateful for them having this time to build a memory that will last them for the rest of their lives."

-Julie (mother of camper)



Game Wardens from the hit TV show North Woods Law attended a Portland Sea Dogs game on August 26th. They were available to sign autographs, and take pictures with fans.. Warden Jonathan Parker threw the first pitch. Jonathan and his fellow wardens entertained fans during a few breaks in the game.



Missed the Sea Dogs Game?!

Join us at the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray September 26 to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day and meet several of the game wardens featured on Animal Planet's hit tv show North Woods Law!

The Maine Operation Game Thief 'Wall of Shame' trailer, Maine Warden Service Dive Team Trailer, Airboat and other special equipment will be on display.

There is no extra fee for this special event, however regular wildlife park admission will apply:
Adults \$7.50, 4-12 \$5.50, Seniors \$5.00, 3 & under free.

FMI on events at the Maine Wildlife Park: <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/education/wildlifepark/events.htm>