



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, June 1, 2012

NEW EMPLOYEES



Please welcome Caroline Hailey on board as the newest member of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department. Caroline comes on board as a Public Relations Representative in the Information and Education division.

Caroline, a staff writer and reporter covering state and local government news, most recently worked for the Carroll County Times in Maryland. She also worked as a statehouse reporter for the Cape Cod Times which gives her plenty of experience in New England issues.

Her job here at the Department will include establishing and maintaining media contacts thru out the state, Press releases, coordinating with other departments on various projects, and occasionally something she's also good at – photography.

Caroline will be based in Augusta and start with us on June 4th. She brings knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the job. Welcome aboard!



Please welcome Ashley Malinowski to the Department as the new Information & Education Specialist for the Bureau of Resource Management. Her combined experience in field based wildlife research, communicating with the public about Maine wildlife as an employee of the Maine Wildlife Park and planning and leading educational workshops to promote safe hunting and fishing, along with her great enthusiasm for the work our Biologists do, made her stand

out among many applicants.

Ashley's primary duties in this newly developed position will be to promote and enhance communication about the work undertaken by staff in the Bureau of Resource Management to the public through press releases, public working groups and task forces, and by enhancing the Department's web and print presence.

Ashley will be based out of the Augusta office, but I expect you'll find her in the field just as often, learning about and reporting on the projects and studies being undertaken by our Regional and Research staff. I hope you will join me in welcoming Ashley to the Department when she begins her service with MDIFW on Monday, June 4th.

KID'S SECTION

Warden Pelkey had the pleasure of speaking with one young angler who was very happy with the fish she caught. Her and her family were up visiting her Grandfather, who is in the final stages of terminal cancer. She told me it was a sad week that was just made a lot better by catching a nice fish.



Free Fishing this Weekend!

On **June 2 & 3**, any person may fish in Maine without a license, except for those who have had their license suspended or revoked. All other rules and regulations, including bag and possession limits, do apply.

INFORMATION CENTER

Last week the front office handled:

- 1,011 Phone calls
- 476 Emails
- 72 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Deer wintering areas continue to be high priority in Region E. Over the last several months we have been working in cooperation with the Bureau of Parks and Lands on mapping exercises for three large deer wintering area complexes on state land. Two of the areas are located on the newly acquired Seboomook unit and one is in the Telos area west of Baxter Park. Although we are a long way from finalizing boundaries, these areas will most likely total greater than 15000 acres when completed. Lessons from past efforts indicate that areas much smaller than 1000 acres will most likely fail in northern Maine. The primary goal during this effort is to use a variety of data sources including where deer have wintering in the past to develop large management areas for wintering deer that are big enough to sustain deer over time and allow for significant increases in the herd.

Written by Douglas Kane

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, Region D wildlife biologists Chuck Hulse and Bob Cordes attended and participated in the 2012 Northeast Moose Technical meeting in Bangor. For 25 years moose biologists in the northeast U.S and southeast Canada have met annually to discuss moose management within their jurisdictions. They share their own challenges and solutions in moose management, focusing on the development of harvest regulations, population surveys, and disease and parasite factors common to moose.

This year's meeting is being hosted by MDIFW Deer and Moose biologist Lee Kantar. The program includes presentations and reports from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, as well as the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indian Nations. Day two included a visit to the veterinary diagnostic lab at the University of Maine at Orono. There, Dr. Anne Lichtenwalner led a discussion and demonstration on moose reproduction analysis and disease surveillance.

Also in attendance were three regional wildlife biologists from Regions A and B. I have attended three other moose technical meetings when they were hosted by New Hampshire Fish and Game and held in Gorham, NH. Spending two days with moose biologists, immersed in discussions on biology and management is an inexpensive and enjoyable way to better understand and appreciate this valuable resource.

Written by Chuck Hulse

A New Area to Hunt Turkeys in Maine By Scott McLellan

The Moosehead Lake Region of Maine has not exactly been the place that people flock to get a wild turkey. The majority of this region contains "big woods" habitat, which is a term used to describe continuous, undeveloped woods generally owned by industrial logging companies. This "big woods" habitat perfectly describes unsuitable habitat for wild turkeys, which thrive best in a mix of agricultural habitat and broken blocks of northern hardwood forest.

For the rest of Scott's essay on big woods habitat and turkey hunting in WMD 9, [click here](#).



Wiley's Weekly

Wiley participated in an advisory committee meeting in Dover-Foxcroft for the Bureau of Parks and Lands Central Penobscot management plan. This plan combines the 20,000 acre Seboeis Lake and 44,000 acre Nahmakanta public lands parcels as well as 13,000 acres of other smaller lots in the Millinocket region. About 40 individuals attended and provided valuable input and advice for recreation, access and fish and wildlife issues.



RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

The Maine Butterfly Survey Takes Flight for a Sixth Season By Phillip deMaynadier

With over 120 species, butterflies contribute a colorful component to Maine's biological diversity. Butterflies also play important ecological roles, both as pollinators of wildflowers and as prey to larger species, from dragonflies to birds. Despite growing concern for pollinating insects generally and butterflies specifically, Maine had only a rudimentary knowledge of the group, until now.

Initiated in 2007 by IFW's Research & Assessment Section, the Maine Butterfly Survey (MBS) is a statewide survey effort designed to fill information gaps on distribution, flight seasons, and habitat relationships for one of the state's most popular insects. Following in the tradition of previously state-sponsored wildlife surveys, such as the Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project, data generated from the MBS come primarily from trained citizen scientists.

There is an increasing public demand for information on the status of butterflies and other wildlife in Maine. Of special note is the high proportion of State butterflies (~20%) considered Extinct, Endangered, or Special Concern. Statewide survey effort could demonstrate that some species are more abundant than formerly believed, while others may merit increased attention. By marshalling the efforts of trained volunteers across Maine, this multi-year statewide butterfly atlas is designed to provide MDIFW and its conservation partners with a significant increase in knowledge on the status of the state's butterfly fauna.

To help new volunteers IFW is sponsoring a six-hour training workshop on June 23rd at Colby College in Waterville. Participants will learn about butterfly biology, identification, and details on MBS protocols. Lunch will be provided as will butterfly collecting equipment. To become involved in this project contact the IFW coordinator, Phillip deMaynadier, at phillip.demaynadier@maine.gov or the MBS volunteer coordinator, Dr. Herb Wilson, at whwilson@colby.edu. Also check details on progress to date at the MBS website by [clicking here](#). Non-game research and assessment surveys by IFW are funded by volunteer contributions to the State tax-form Chickadee-Checkoff, purchase of Loon Plates, and the federal State Wildlife Grants program.



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Warden Activity

Warden Franklin had the pleasure of checking Adrian Beauregard (88) and his wife Geneva Switzerland (81) of Lewiston fishing on Lake Auburn. Adrian purchased his Lone Star boat brand new in 1957, and has owned it since. He was equipped with an original 1976 Johnson outboard and 60's era trolling equipment. Also in the boat was an original PFD, with no USCG labels. It's nice to see folks out enjoying a lifelong passion, with traditional fishing equipment.



Warden Dauphinee spent most of the week working fishing enforcement. The water levels were good for fishing most of the week. Warden Dauphinee addressed several violations, during the week, including several people illegally using worms and one subject who had 10 trout.

The weekend was busy with more ATV traffic than fishing it seemed. Section 13 had an unfortunate ATV accident on the Madagascal Pond Rd. that had left 3 people injured, but they will heal up in time. Issued a couple summons for ATV violations with several complaints that kept Warden Boyer running.



Warden Seth Powers received an expression of thanks from the Sanford Cub Scout pack for his help on their fishing day last week. Warden Powers is preparing for Warden School which will begin next week. Section one wardens wish him well on his new assignment.

As a North Woods Law "star", Warden Rick Laflamme took part in a BBQ tasting contest at Cabala's in Scarborough. Emily MacCabe, Statewide Activities Coordinator for the Department was also a celebrity taster. The event was well attended.



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Chain of Ponds Fishway Trapping *By Dave Boucher*

In 1987, IF&W obtained ownerships of the Chain of Ponds dam in Chain of Ponds Township, Franklin County. The outlet below the dam is the beginning of the North Branch of the Dead River, which provides important spawning and nursery habitat for landlocked salmon and brook trout. At that time, the dam was showing clear signs of age and was in need of some repairs.

Around 1990, IF&W made the necessary alterations to improve the condition and integrity of the structure, but provisions for allowing free passage of fish through the new dam were not included. Shortly after this revision, anglers fishing the pond began reporting fewer landlocked salmon in the fishery. Creel and electrofishing surveys confirmed that the population had indeed changed. It became apparent that adult and juvenile fish migrating up the river and over the ailing dam was important to the chain's salmon fishery. In 2010, a fishway was installed to allow fish to get around the obstructing dam.

Evaluating the success of the fishway began in the spring of 2011. A fish trap was constructed and placed at the top of the fishway to capture all fish using the bypass. In 40 days of operation last year (from 5/11 through 6/20), 122 salmon, 189 brook trout, 426 yellow perch, 175 suckers, 935 minnows, and 33 bullhead (hornpout) were counted. Lengths, weights and scales were taken on all the salmon and most (87%) were less than 3-years old and less than 8 inches long, indicating that the new fishway was successfully allowing young fish born in the river to complete their normal life history of entering lake habitat to reach maturity.

The fish trap was installed again this year, but a bit later in the season (5/25). So far, it has been tended twice and already 17 salmon, 14 brook trout, 41 yellow perch, 11 suckers, and 278 minnows have been handled. We'll continue to monitor the trap until early July.

"Reconnecting" Chain of Ponds with the North Branch of the Dead River should enhance the recruitment of young salmon and brook trout to the ponds' sport fishery. Other native fish in the drainage should benefit as well.

