

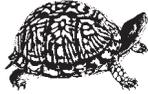


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Monthly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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April, 2014

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Spring Wild Turkey Hunt - *Written By Ryan Robicheau, Wildlife Mgt. Section Supervisor*

In light of the upcoming spring turkey hunting season- even though it may not feel like it yet- the time is upon us to check our equipment, clean gear, and do some scouting! It's also time to revisit some of the recent expansion of turkey hunting opportunities this coming season with an update on the spring wild turkey hunt.

In preparation of expanding the turkey hunt into all Wildlife Management Districts (WMD's) in the State, the Department held a series of public informational meetings in Aroostook County to help spread the word, discuss the reintroduction program, turkey hunting tactics and turkey hunting safety recommendations. Regional Wildlife Biologist Richard Hoppe worked in conjunction with the Warden Service to offer three informational presentations over the last couple of weeks in the towns of Monticello, Presque Isle and Fort Kent.

They covered the establishment of turkey hunting opportunities in the northern WMD's as well as some of the additional expanded hunting opportunities in the other WMD's. The discussion involved the spring hunting season (April 28 through May 31- with youth spring wild turkey hunting day on April 26), the Spring/Fall Wild Turkey Permit fee of \$20.00 (for resident and non-resident hunters) and the bag limits. In WMD's 7 and 9 through 29 there is a two bearded wild turkey bag limit and in WMD's 1 through 6 and WMD 8 there is a one bearded wild turkey bag limit. A hunter may take up to two bearded wild turkeys but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit. Another substantial change in the turkey hunt is that legal hunting hours are now ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

In addition to the logistics of the hunting season, hunter safety was also an important topic discussed. It's important to remember certain practices and tactics that can make turkey hunting a safe, enjoyable sport including wearing appropriate colored clothing, selecting a calling position that offers cover from behind, hunting defensively and being sure you have a safe backstop when shooting.

The informational meetings provided by the Department were a great opportunity to spread the word to both the hunting public and non-hunting public that turkey hunting in the State has been expanded, and more opportunity provided for those who participate in one of the great outdoor opportunities in Maine.



For those who still need to send their taxes in, don't forget to check the chickadee to help support Endangered Species!

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 2,640 Phone calls
- 1,336 Emails
- 265 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

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Sportsman's shows have begun and groups and clubs have begun to hold annual meetings around the state. The Commissioner was in attendance at a few this month:

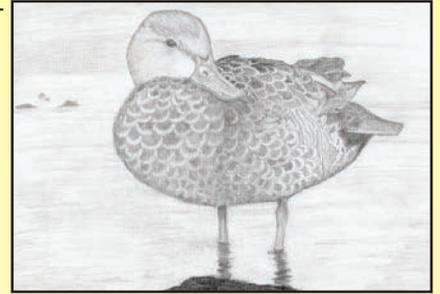
- North Maine Woods Directors Meeting
- 76th Annual Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show, Orono
- Wilton Fish and Game Club
- Western Maine Fly Fishing Expo, Bethel
- Wilton Lions Club Meeting
- Maine Sportsman's Show, Augusta Civic Center

The Commissioner was in attendance at the Maine Wildlife Park volunteer appreciation dinner held at Spring Meadows Country Club in Gray. The dinner is held annually to recognize volunteers and their efforts in helping with various tasks around the Maine Wildlife Park.

The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and staff attended a regularly scheduled Advisory Council meeting on March 20th. The Council voted to accept an amendment to the Falconry regulations and also discussed proposals for the Wildlife Violators Compact, Moose Permit Allocations and a recent petition the Department received requesting a regulation change on Pond in the River in Oxford County.

The Commissioner also participated in a recent event at the Hall of Flags as a judge for the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design contest...

"A drawing by 14 year-old Abigail Bennett of Brewer, won Best of Show in the Maine competition of the 2014 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. The judging was held at the Hall of Flags in Augusta, Maine on March 7th."



Maine Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Contest

In 2014, the Department assigned local artists the task of preparing art featuring the American Widgeon. The contest attracted 9 artists hoping their art would be created into a stamp that the Department offers to licensed waterfowl hunters or collectors. The judging took place at the Augusta Civic Center on the first day of the State of Maine Sportsman's Show. Each year, the crowd watching the judging has grown larger. This year, our winner was Rebekah Lowell who used oils to create her piece, she was also a winner in 2011. Second place was awarded to Georgette Kanach, third place to Olga Wing, and two Honorable Mention belong to Janine Folsom and Dana Rodman.

Below: Judging taking place.

Right: Rebekah Lowell and her winning art.

Bottom: The art stayed on display during the sportsman show.



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



Warden Jim Davis – Division E Ashland: Warden Davis checked a 72-year-old trapper with 173 beaver, four otter, and a hand full of rats. 120 of the beaver were over 60 inches. That's a pretty good run of beaver.



Lucas Bellanceau checked a group of ice fishermen on Moose Pond that had some luck catching salmon. Lucas discovered that one of the individuals was over his limit and all three of the men were in violation of Moose Pond's 16-inch length requirements for salmon. The individuals were all summonsed accordingly and three short salmon were seized as evidence.



Game wardens downeast discover a bait dealer transporting brook trout.



Maine's game wardens are now equipped better than ever to save their own life or someone else's in the event of a life-threatening injury. For the past two weeks, Maine game wardens and Maine Marine Patrol officers experienced a new level of officer survival; Tactical Aid Training. Tourniquets will now be worn and used by Maine game wardens should an event occur where they or someone else sustains an injury involving life-threatening blood loss from the result of a bullet, vehicle crash, or other incident. Since medical personnel will not be coming to our aid until a threat is gone, game wardens are left to care for themselves in an incident of survival with an armed assailant. This training provides our wardens with information to sustain life and push through the loss of an arm or leg until additional medical assistance can be provided. This training is new to the world of police work and the Maine Warden Service is leading the way to protect both its own people and those we serve and protect. Dark Angel Medical was chosen to provide this advanced training due to their expertise in this field of work. Leading the training for Dark Angel Medical was Kerry Davis. Davis brings with him an extensive resume to include experience as a USAF medic, RN & ER work, flight medic, U.S. Army's Airborne school and teaches Paramedic Cardiology. The training provided tools in the field of tourniquet application as well as knowledge to help every law enforcement officer with the tools in which to survive a life-threatening incident. We wish to thank Firelance Media for providing the above photograph.



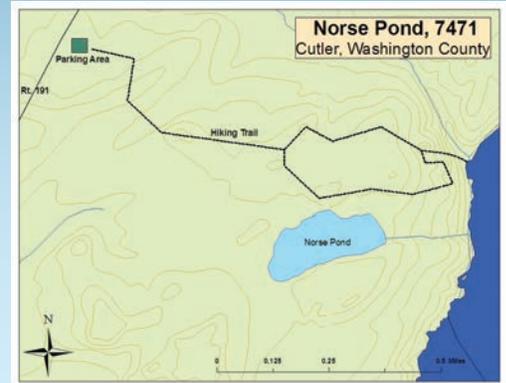
**The MWP will
open for the
2014 season on
April 19!**



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Downeast Region Fishing Report - *Written by Greg Burr, Regional Fisheries Biologist*

In the Downeast region, this year's "ice-out" may turn out to be one of the latest on record, but that doesn't mean there won't be early hot spots to fish in April. Anglers who are anxious to fish flowing waters should consider Grand Lake Stream, located in the village of Grand Lake Stream in Washington County. This is one of the top five landlocked salmon rivers in the state. Grand Lake Stream opens April 1, and is fly fishing only with a length limit of 14 inches and 1 fish bag limit on salmon. It can provide fast fishing during the first two or three weeks of April for salmon that have overwintered in the stream, especially in the dam pool. These fish average 16 and 20 inches and are eager to take imitation smelt patterns drifted or twitched. As May approaches and water temperatures warm, salmon become increasingly active and more salmon move into the stream from West Grand and Big Lakes chasing smelt and insects. These are called bright salmon and they persist in the stream into the beginning of July.



Other river sections to try in eastern Washington County for early landlocked salmon are two reaches of the St. Croix River. The first is located in the village of Vanceboro approximately ¼ quarter mile down river from the Vanceboro dam. This section offers anglers a chance to fish in several pool and riffle areas for salmon dropping down from Spednic Lake. Here, anglers also catch native brook trout up to 15 inches long. The second reach is the riffle stretch below the Kellyland powerhouse, about ½ mile down river from the Grand Falls Dam in the outskirts of Baileyville. The landlocks here are drop downs from Big and West Grand Lakes. Both of these sections open to fishing April 15th.

Another river to try is the Orland River below the Alamoosook Lake Dam. This river is open to year-round fishing and can host beautiful landlocked salmon and brown trout that drop from Toddy Pond, as well as spring-stocked brook trout. Orland River has a 2-trout bag limit, but general law rules otherwise apply.

For early ice-out with potential fast action for brook trout, anglers will want to put these waters on their list: Lakewood Pond in Bar Harbor, Simpson Pond in Roque Bluffs, and Norse Pond in Cutler. These three coastal ponds give up their coating of ice early and are

well worth the trek to their remote locations. Ice-out at these ponds should be between April 15th and 20th this year.

To read the rest of the article, [click here](#).

RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Help for Turtles In Trouble on Maine's Roadways – *Written by Derek Yorks*

As spring finally arrives, Maine's turtles are beginning to emerge from hibernation to bask in the sunshine and resume the active part of their lives. Over the coming months many turtles will leave the water and move across land to other wetlands in search of mates and food, and females will move to warm sunny upland sites to nest. Many of these turtles will inevitably encounter roads, which are all too often lethal for the turtles that attempt to cross them. Some of Maine's rarest turtle species such as the Blanding's turtle (State Endangered) and the spotted turtle (State Threatened) are especially affected by roads because they so readily leave the water to move between wetlands. The negative effects of road mortality on their populations is compounded by the fact that Blanding's and spotted turtles may live in excess of 50 years and usually take 12 – 18 years to mature. As a result of these traits, high adult survivorship is critical and the annual loss of even 1 or 2 adults from a local population can cause it to plummet past the point of recovery.

In light of this issue, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) is working to identify roadways where Maine turtles are at risk. IFW will continue to partner with Maine Audubon (MA) and the existing Wildlife Road Watch program (WRW <http://www.wildlifecrossing.net/maine/>), which enlists volunteers to survey sections of road and collect data on the wildlife species they find, alive and dead. Efforts will expand beyond this broader wildlife survey at select locations to focus on identifying areas where Blanding's turtles and spotted turtles are crossing roads. Surveys will take place principally in York, Cumberland, and Oxford Counties during the months of May, June, and July when turtles are most active. The information collected is invaluable to IFW biologists who will use the data to determine which roads are most threatening to Maine's rare turtle species. As opportunities arise, problematic road sections can be amended to reduce mortality and enhance connectivity across the landscape for turtles and other wildlife with the use of cautionary road-crossing signs, fencing, and under road tunnels.

