



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Thursday, April 5, 2012

ENGINEERING & REALTY

After 22 years with the Department's Engineering Division, Bob Brann is retiring.

While working for IF&W Bob drove nearly a million miles, worked long days usually away from home, on many projects well done.

Bob's impact on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife goes unnoticed to the average sportsman, but not to the Department. There have been many transformations of the infrastructure in the past 22 years. Bob, with his knowledge and expertise, has been involved with most of those projects which provide the other divisions the ability to accomplish their goals.

After a trip to Minnesota to meet up with family, Bob plans to enjoy his retirement by first finishing his granddaughters play house before she grows out of it. Enjoy Bob!

You've earned it!



Bob Brann and Ron Taylor share a laugh at Bob's retirement gathering.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION



2012 was the second year that Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife used an "Open Category", with 5 duck species to choose from. Those species were Greater or Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Barrow's Goldeneye. Below is a breakdown of the winners:

- 1st Place – Janine Folsom, Skowhegan (pictured below)
- 2nd Place – Georgette Kanach, Gray
- 3rd Place – Michael Loring, Windham
- HM – Erwin Flewelling, Northport
- HM – Janet Glatz, Durham

We will be continuing the "Open Category" for 2013, with a list of 3 species below to choose from:

- Greater or Lesser Scaup
- Common Goldeneye
- Bufflehead



In 2013, the contest will be on March 29 @ 5pm, in the Art Room at the Augusta Civic Center.

INFORMATION CENTER

Last week the front office of the Department received and replied to:

- 976 Phone calls
- 596 Emails
- 106 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970

Swan Island
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MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

April 5, 2012

Maine Warden Service Annual Meeting

The Winslow VFW hall was filled with wardens past and present: More than 40 retired wardens attended to show their support for current members of their extended "family." Awards were handed out to numerous wardens for performing their jobs in particularly noteworthy fashion.

During the banquet, Dave Georgia Jr. of Milford, who earned the nickname "The Coyote" because of his dogged pursuit of intentional violators of the state's fish and game laws, was honored by his peers as the state's 2011 Warden of the Year.

"What I want people to remember is that I'm being recognized as the Warden of the Year, but it's all of us, collectively [that deserve recognition]," Georgia said. "I've worked hard next to a lot of these guys. It's the same with the youth club. That's a community project with a lot of sweat and tears and blood that goes into it."



Among the other awards given out:

- The Maine Warden Service Association Legendary Warden Award to Rodney Sirois, who died in 2006.
- Colonel's Award to Major Gregory Sanborn.
- Supervisor of the Year Award to Sgt. Ralph Hosford.
- K9 Case of the Year Award to Warden Dave Chabot and K9 Ruby; K9 Search and Rescue of the Year Award to Warden Jeremy Judd and K9 Tundra.
- Exemplary Service Awards to Georgia, Bayley Grant, Dave Simmons, Jeremy Kemp, Paul Farrington, Scott Osgood, Steve Allarie and Tom McKenney.
- Meritorious Service Award to Doug Kulis.
- Maine Warden Service Association Awards of Merit to State Trooper Jessica Shorey, Angus Crosby, Lauren Crosby, Sadia Crosby, Mollie Crosby and William Shuman.



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

An illegal introduction of rainbow smelt that occurred nearly 10 years ago in Big Wadleigh Pond has resulted in some very dramatic (and negative) changes to the Arctic charr population. Big Wadleigh Pond is one of just 12 native charr waters in the lower 48 States, and all 12 waters are in Maine. So it is important that the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife make a concerted effort to protect these fish.



Last spring, Fisheries Biologists Jeff Bagley and Steve Seebach implanted 10 radio transmitters in charr so that we could locate them, and presumably others, in the fall just before spawning. These transmitters were purchased in a partnership with the Natural Resource Education Center's Fisheries Internship/Enhancement fund. We travelled back to Big Wadleigh Pond last fall to capture Arctic charr and found that 100% of our tagged fish had survived. Our tracking efforts paid off and we were able to recapture 9 of the tagged fish and over 50 other charr. These fish were relocated to Mountain Springs Trout Farm in Frenchville. This spring we will return to Big Wadleigh Pond and collect native brook trout. We will hold these native fish and their progeny temporarily until the Department can complete a chemical reclamation of the pond. The reclamation is scheduled for October 2012 and will enable the Department to restore the native fish assemblage to Big Wadleigh Pond. A public informational meeting was held in Greenville on April 2nd to discuss the project. The only public comments were related to other potential uses of the illegally introduced smelt at Big Wadleigh Pond.

This illegal introduction threatens to eliminate one of the few native Arctic charr populations located in the U.S. and the native brook trout too. The restoration will be costly, but it can be successful. In most cases, there is no option for restoration and the impacts of non-native fish introductions are permanent and devastating to native fish. We must all work together to stop the epidemic of illegal fish introductions which represent the largest threat to Maine's indigenous fish species.



Male Arctic Charr in spawning plumage

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- April is the time of year when moose are susceptible to winter tick since adult ticks are feeding and breeding; the Warden Service and the Wildlife Division are working together to monitor overwinter moose mortalities by field inspecting dead moose that are recovered. Lee Kantar joined Wardens D. Simmons and B. Grant to examine a short-yearling (calf) bull that had a broken leg from a vehicle collision and had to be euthanized. The moose was examined for winter tick/hair loss as well as lungworms to assess health status. Wildlife Division and Warden Service will be working hand in hand over the next 2 months to monitor spring moose mortalities.
- On March 30th IFW held its annual meeting with the Maine Trappers Association, Maine Sporting Dog Association, and other interested parties to discuss trapping, furbearer hunting, and furbearer population issues at the Augusta Armory. Although we changed the venue from previous years, the meeting was well attended with 40-50 people. Furbearer Biologist John DePue presented the most current furbearer harvest trends and answered questions about furbearer management with help from Mammal Group Leader -- Wally Jakubas. Attendees discussed recent declines in the Downeast otter harvest, pelt prices and their influence on beaver trapping, efforts to reverse the apparent decline in the fisher population, and the status of the bobcat population. Jakubas gave trappers an update on the public comments received on the Incidental Take Plan for lynx that was submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the progress the Department has made with the Service in finalizing the Plan. The Department was asked to explore shorting the length of the fisher trapping season and removing the current bag limit of 10 fisher per year, and to consider lengthening the bobcat season to provide more hunting opportunity and to decrease predation pressure on the Downeast deer population. Trappers as usual provided valuable insight on the status of furbearer populations and the pros and cons of regulatory options for trapping.



Wiley's weekly report

Wiley inventoried and evaluated invasive plants on the Jay to Farmington multi-use trail managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands for potential control. Invasive species identified were Japanese knotweed and Oriental bittersweet. Control activities using herbicide will be undertaken in July on approximately 2 acres of trail.

An area adjacent to the Sunday River on BP&L's Mahoosuc Unit in Riley Twp. near Bethel was checked for wild apple tree release opportunities. More than 100 apple trees were found over a 50 acre area and most needed release from the shading of nearby trees. Typically one or two trees to the south and west of an apple tree are felled to allow sunlight to reach the apple tree's crown and stimulate fruit production. The apple trees are survivors from farms that were active here when this area was settled in the 1800's. The Rangeley Guides and Sportsmens Association will be contacted about their interest in doing this apple tree release as a volunteer wildlife habitat project.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Week of April 2 - 6

- Commissioner Woodcock attended the nominations of Donald G. Marean of Hollis, James W. Gorman, Jr. of Freeport, and William J. Vail of Saco to the Land for Maine's Future Board before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on Tuesday, April 3rd.
- Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine attended a luncheon for recent retiree Bob Brann on Wednesday, April 4th. Bob will be presented a Commissioner's print at a ceremony to be held later this year.
- Commissioner Woodcock and Deputy Commissioner Erskine attended the Warden Service Annual Award Ceremony in Winslow on Thursday, April 5th.
- Commissioner Woodcock traveled to Madawaska on Friday, April 6th for the Madawaska Sportsman's Forum held at the Four Season's Lodge.