



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Thursday, April 12, 2012

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

The Maine Wildlife Park received the 2012 Rose Award (Recognition of Service Excellence) from the Portland Convention and Visitors Bureau on Wednesday afternoon. There were over 200 CVB members in attendance, representing a host of businesses in the greater Portland area. This was a nice honor for the Wildlife Park and the Department.



MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Maine Warden Service has been busy lately. Here's an example of what our Wardens have been up to!

Last week marked the beginning of the true open water fishing season. I watched and checked quite a few fishermen in the famous Grand Lake Stream. I saw some very nice fish caught and anglers reported catching a few 20" and larger salmon. At one point there were 25 fishermen in the dam pool standing shoulder to shoulder in 35 degree water. Most fishermen said that they were only able to stay in the water about 30 minutes before losing feeling in their hands and feet as air temperatures were only 15 degrees on opening morning. Grand Lake Stream is a true destination point for diehard anglers that want to wet a line on April 1. I wasn't sure how busy it would be due to the earlier than normal spring. It did not seem to change much as there were as many fishermen as normal. One thing has changed over the last few years, the angler's that are coming are there to catch fish, and under most circumstances let them go. Several years ago there would be a handful of people that would come and press their luck by fishing too close to the fish way or keeping too many fish. Lately both of those violations have been almost nonexistent. The anglers that are true conservationist would self police the area and single out the violators. It seems those people have got the message. -Warden Richard

There was an incident recently that illustrates why eyewitness testimony can be suspect. As I was walking into the Irving's Big Stop in Baileyville a pair of sportsmen in the parking lot asked; "wasn't that you we see on that TV show last night?" I replied, "Yes, briefly when they brought out the lost moose hunters." I went in the store impressed with how much attention people must be paying to Northwoods Law. When I came out the men were still leaned up against their pick-up and they obviously wanted to talk some more. The older of the two then said; "And you was the one that shot the bear up tah Portland wasn't you?" !!! ...And we wonder why people see mountain lions all the time... - Sgt. Craven

KID'S SECTION



Madison Boothby with the fish she caught casting a lure this week! Todd said he was fishing for worms with his 3 year old son and Madison said she was going to go off and cast by herself. She yelled out "I think I need help" and he heard the drag screaming on her spin rod. 4 1/2 lb. brown, it could have been 20 lbs. in her eyes.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 967 Phone calls
- 590 Emails
- 86 Walk-ins



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Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Stream-Smart Road Crossing Workshops

Streams are important habitat for fish and many wildlife species. Each time a road crosses a stream, a bridge or culvert is built to get the water from one side of the road to the other. Unfortunately, recent surveys show that up to 90% of culvert crossings are making movement difficult or impossible for many fish and wildlife at least part of the year, while nearly 40% are severe barriers to movement. This type of habitat fragmentation can result in the loss of species including highly-prized fish species like Eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon.

Maine Audubon in partnership with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and many others have been hosting workshops around the state to promote better designs for stream crossings that protect roads, safety and habitat. The goal is to let the stream act like a stream and make the road invisible to the stream. Six sold-out workshops have been attended by over 300 participants and have included town public works staff, contractors, engineers, and foresters. DIFW fisheries biologists Robert Van Riper and Frank Frost were workshop instructors giving presentations about the values of streams to Maine's fisheries and wildlife resources.

For additional information about the workshops and presentations go to:

maineaudubon.org/wildlife-habitat/stream-smart

Additional project partners include the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA NRCS, Maine Forest Service, Maine Rivers, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Project Share, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, US Army Corp.



WILDLIFE DIVISION

MDIFW often partners with many organizations promoting fish and wildlife conservation, sound stewardship practices and other values benefiting Maine's wildlife. This month regional wildlife biologist Chuck Hulse presented a segment on Conserving Fish and Wildlife to attentive groups of logging professionals. Maine's Certified Logging Professional Program offers 4-day certification programs to provide the best possible training and education to people working in the Maine logging industry.

This CLP workshop covers a range of topics including; business fundamentals, safety, directional felling, water quality, and others.



MDIFW staff are invited annually to present at these workshops providing an opportunity to interact directly with logging professionals who work in our wildlife's habitat daily. MDIFW staff deliver the "Conserving Fish and Wildlife" program covering many topics: forest succession, what animals need to survive, how logging can affect habitat, water quality, and wraps up with a discussion on practices that protect fish and wildlife. This year's talk will have a focus on deer wintering areas, lynx and vernal pools in relation to various forestry activities loggers are likely to be involved with.

MDIFW appreciates this opportunity and looks forward to working with these professionals in the future as they manage our forested landscape.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Commissioner Chandler Woodcock visited sportsmen in Presque Isle, had an on camera interview with WAGM-TV, a sit down interview with the St John Valley Times, and was guest speaker at 4 Seasons Lodge in Madawaska. The Commissioner participated in a lively and informative Q&A on a variety of issues related to the cold water fishery of Long Lake and Northern Maine.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Week of April 8 - 14:

- Friday, April 13th Commissioner Woodcock attended the Unity College Game Dinner.
- Saturday, April 14th the Commissioner briefly attended the Maine Snowmobile Association meeting in Rome, and then traveled to Brewer to attend the annual Maine Professional Guide's Banquet.