



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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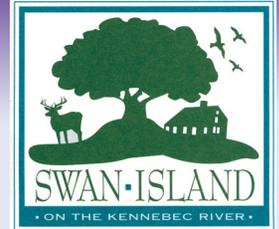


Friday, June 8, 2012

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

REMINDER:

Maine Wildlife Park and Swan Island offer free admission to IFW employees and **immediate** family!



The Maine Wildlife Park in Gray and Swan Island in Richmond offer free admission to IFW employees and their **immediate** families! "Immediate" means **your** spouse and **your** children (not the neighbor's kids, grandparents, aunts, uncles or BFFs). This applies to daily as well as special event admissions.

The IFW employee must be present, and must show the IFW ID card (not the State of Maine door pass or any other state or personal ID) to receive the free admission.

Please remember that both facilities exist because of the admissions they generate. We hope you enjoy your trip to either or both unique IFW facilities.



"If you care, leave them there!"



With nature in full bloom, many people are going outdoors – in their backyards, the woods and the beaches – to enjoy the nice weather. Wildlife is active, too, and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife reminds people to follow these simple steps to be safe among the wildlife and to keep the young animals with their mothers.

[Click here](#) for information that should help everyone live harmoniously with wildlife, including fawns, moose, Piping Plovers and others. We encourage people to follow these steps for the protection of themselves and wildlife – and to appreciate wildlife and their behaviors from afar.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Thursday, June 7th the Commissioner traveled to Bar Harbor for a Sportsman's Forum at the Connors-Emerson Elementary School. Topics of interest from the group included fisheries management and deer hunting on Mount Desert Island.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 739 Phone calls
- 385 Emails
- 48 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Bryant Pond 4-H Camp and Learning Center held their annual Youth Field Day and Open House on Saturday, June 2. Emily MacCabe and Jeff Boudreau attended the event and ran the Hooked on Fishing Event at the camp's stocked trout pond. Despite wet and cold conditions the fishing was terrific. Many children attended the event and had the opportunity to catch their first fish.

This event was one of many held throughout Maine last weekend, which was Free Fishing Weekend.



Like us on Facebook!

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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Sebago Region fisheries biologists have been systematically inventorying regional bass waters since 2003 utilizing a specialized “electrofishing” boat. This boat, which was partially funded by a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant, generates an electric current that is adjusted to facilitate non-lethal sampling of bass and other fish. To date, 42 regional bass waters have been surveyed. Survey data collection includes information on bass length and weight, catch per unit effort, scale samples to provide size at age information, shoreline habitat, and relative abundance of other fish present. These data provide sound information supporting the long term management and enhancement of bass fisheries in southern Maine.

The surveys are conducted each spring during the bass spawning season - mid May to early June in southern Maine. This is the time of the year all ages classes of bass may be found in shallow water. On waters over about 100 acres, sampling transects are randomly selected using GPS waypoints obtained during a previous habitat survey. This ensures sampling is representative and proportionate to the occurrence of each cover type. Surveys are conducted at night when non-spawning bass are feeding and concentrated along the shoreline. A special lighting system enables two netters to locate and capture stunned bass.

Sampling bass with this gear can be challenging in Maine lakes. Fluctuating temperatures (like those observed this spring) make it difficult to predict spawning to schedule the surveys. Furthermore, bass surveys cannot be safely completed during windy and rainy nights. These limitations reduce an already short sampling window during most years. In addition, Maine’s sterile, low-conductance water chemistry reduces the effectiveness of the “Eboat” to stun and hold bass, and as a result staff biologists maneuvering the collection nets must be agile and quick. In spite of these challenges, a strong commitment to the project has resulted in a successful data collection program that will support ongoing efforts to enhance southern Maine’s very popular and valuable bass fisheries.

The impetus for collecting this information is rooted in the Department’s statewide bass management plan, which identified a need to classify and, where possible, enhance recreational bass fisheries within certain areas of the state.

- Written by Francis Brautigam, Regional Fisheries Biologist, Sebago Region



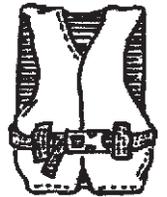
Personnel changes within the Fisheries Division - Both effective June 4th, 2012

- Regional Fisheries Biologist Robert “Bobby” VanRiper transferred from the Belgrade Lakes headquarters in Sidney to the Rangeley Lakes headquarters in Strong.
- Acting Regional Fisheries Biologist Jason Seiders transferred from the Rangeley Lakes headquarters in Strong to the Belgrade Lakes headquarters in Sidney, where he will also serve as Acting Regional Biologist.



Get out on the water!!

Register your boat by [clicking here](#)
Buy your Milfoil sticker by [clicking here](#)
And don't forget to wear your life jacket!



RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

New England cottontail, a state endangered species in Maine, were once again front and center on Mammal Group Leader -- Wally Jakubas' work list this past week. The Executive Committee of the Regional New England Cottontail Initiative reviewed and approved a region-wide conservation strategy to be sent out for final external review on June 8th. State wildlife agencies from Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York; federal agencies -- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and conservation organizations -- Wildlife Management Institute and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; all are participating in a region-wide effort to recover New England cottontail populations, and in the process, avoid federal listing of the species under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Conservation Strategy for New England is a comprehensive planning document that identifies focal areas in each state for restoring or maintaining New England cottontail habitat, sets measurable objectives for 82 distinct conservation actions, sets goals for the number of acres of habitat to be managed in each state, identifies research needs, and provides a cost estimate for doing all of this work. Jakubas is IFW's representative on the Executive and Technical Committees of the Regional New England Initiative. He has worked with other biologists in Maine to provide data for the Conservation Strategy, and editorial comments for each

draft of the Conservation Strategy. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NRCS have already committed millions of dollars to this regional recover effort. The Conservation Strategy will be used to guide these and future management efforts, and to apply for additional funds. - Written by Walter Jakubas, Wildlife Biologist



To read more about some recent activities of the Mammal Group, [click here.](#)

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Tuesday Warden Bob Johansen met with the forester for a local large landowner and passed on several items of interest that the landowner has asked him to keep watch for. Two of the incidents were illegal four wheel drive trails being built to access designated remote trout ponds with restricted access and an illegal "camp" set up in a remote area for hunting and fishing purposes.



Warden Georgia responded to the Mount Hope cemetery in Bangor for yet another deer stuck in the fence. It is a common occurrence that happens just about every year. It generally requires cutting a metal post and bending it far enough for the deer to be able to escape.

Wardens Kemp and Dauphinee teamed up and worked fishermen for the rest of the day. They apprehended two fishermen on the Piscataquis River. The two fishermen had committed numerous violations including: Fishing without licenses, fishing with worms in Artificial lures only water, over limit of brook trout, possession of marijuana, and keeping fish alive. The two fishermen were given summonses and warnings for the violations.



Pine Tree Camp had their annual (16th) paddle on North Pond on 6/2/12 this paddle is an annual fundraiser and paddle. 52 plus kayaks and canoes paddled the pond before the heavy rains started; this would not have stopped this group! Warden Allarie and Christianson attended this function with their issued watercrafts to assist with any issues the paddlers may encounter.

Now some humor from the Maine Warden Service-

Sgt. Craven witnessed a wildlife drama on Thursday morning. A fat gray moth with a short wingspan left the protective bark of a red pine where he had heretofore blended invisibly amid the patches of moss on its trunk. For reasons unknown to the bemused sergeant, the intrepid lepidopteron abandoned his normally nocturnal habits and attempted to make his way across an opening. Suddenly he was strafed by a cedar waxwing. The moth took some evasive maneuvers; the bird missed, and quickly left the area heading back to a nearby hedgerow. The moth, breathing a sigh of relief, continued fluttering along on his journey, but just as quickly as the bird disappeared, he returned with his mate. The two teamed up, and with a spectacular display of aeronautic skill, nailed the juicy morsel. Upon impact a shower of dust cascaded to the ground. The birds whirled and returned to the hedgerow which doubtless concealed a nest full of chicks that were going to enjoy a sumptuous repast.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Division staff met this week to discuss deer management in those districts that are below our population objectives. With a number of efforts underway and some new resources after the 125th 2nd legislative session staff considered how efforts could best complement each other and how to best use new resources.

The Department continues to reach out to landowners in an effort to extend the long-term management and health of wintering habitat to additional deer wintering areas. The Department and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have leveraged funds to hire two natural resource professionals to help private landowners enhance deer-wintering habitat. This represents an exciting opportunity to reach more landowners to manage this critical resource for the long-term viability of our deer herd.

But...in the short-term we need to reduce doe mortality where possible to enhance recovery efforts. The legislature appropriated funds to control predation on deer on private and public lands and staff are currently developing a plan on how to most effectively use these funds. In addition, the legislature provided the Department authority to prohibit deer feeding in certain situations. Deer feeding has been a growing practice and problem in Maine luring deer across high traffic roads, using foods that are undigestible to deer, degrading their habitat and other factors that reduce their winter survival.

As the Department secures additional landowner commitments for the long-term management of wintering habitat we can now invest additional time and resources into those same areas to help reduce winter mortality while deer are in a critical period of population growth. We can't control Mother Nature yet but with these additional resources we can now help reduce some of the influences on deer mortality.

- Written by John Pratte, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor