



# Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

## Weekly Report

[www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com)

284 State St., 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04330 207-287-8000



Friday, June 29, 2012

### INFORMATION & EDUCATION

**HOOKED ON FISHING**  
not drugs®

On Thursday, June 28 MDIFW partnered with the Androscoggin Land Trust and the Boys and Girls Club of Auburn to hold a Hooked on Fishing Event at Little Andy Park in Auburn. Boys and girls had the opportunity to learn about fish identification, casting, and spent a few hours fishing on the banks of the Androscoggin River.



Maine Youth Fish & Game Association recently held their 8th Annual Youth Summer Camp at their facility in Milford. Emily MacCabe and Jeff Boudreau spent the past two weeks fishing with the campers at Pickerel Pond and teaching them about archery along with Regional Safety Coordinator Reggie Read. Regional Safety Coordinator Clint Gaskill also spent time with the campers teaching them firearms safety. Campers had the opportunity to assist staff from the Embden Fish Hatchery with stocking some brook trout into the pond, which is one of Maine's youth only fishing waters. District Game Wardens Kris MacCabe and Alan Curtis gave a demonstration with their K9s Morgan and Cruiser. Regional Fisheries Biologists gave a presentation to campers and allowed them to learn more about fisheries management and studies. Over the two weeks 100+ campers had an opportunity to enjoy time at Maine Youth Fish and Game! For more information about the annual summer camp [click here](#).



### INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,023 Phone calls
- 567 Emails
- 67 Walk-ins



**Missed an issue?**

To view previous Weekly Reports, please visit [www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com) and select "About Us"

The **2012 Maine Moose Lottery** was an historic event for Rangeley and Oquossoc and the entire area! Three days of events, exhibits and competition surrounded the drawing for 3,725 moose permits. Getting a moose permit can mean the hunt of a lifetime, and with the changes made in the lottery system this year's lottery proved to as exciting as ever. Next year's Moose Lottery – as announced by Commissioner Chandler Woodcock at this year's drawing – will be held in Greenville on the shores of Moosehead Lake. So congratulations – or wait until next year!

### Wiley's Weekly

Foraging habitat for the New England cottontail (NEC) rabbit maintained at Crescent Beach State Park in Cape Elizabeth - Written by Joe Wiley, Certified Wildlife Biologist

Ten foot wide strips approximately 1300 feet long were mowed at the edge of old field habitats at Crescent Beach this week. The strips are immediately adjacent to the dense shrub-scrub habitat that the cottontails prefer. They seldom venture more than 16 feet from escape cover. Periodic mowing of the strips throughout the growing season provides succulent regrowth of the rabbit's preferred natural foods close to dense cover. The Cape Elizabeth state park complex and adjacent private lands support the most state endangered New England cottontails in Maine. Other NEC habitat initiatives on these parks include girdling overstory trees to promote dense sprouting, seeding clover in the foraging strips, and restoring native habitat.



Like us on Facebook!

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

Swan Island  
Maine Wildlife Park

## WILDLIFE DIVISION

### **BATS** - *Written by John Pratte, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor*

For the past several years, a disease called White-nose Syndrome (WNS) has caused precipitous declines in bat populations in the northeast so much that *Myotis lucifugus*, or little brown bats, may face extinction by 2026 if current trends continue.

To help protect bat populations affected by WNS, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife alerted homeowners to a sensitive time for maternity colonies. To avoid closing in and killing the young bats of the year, the Department recommends homeowners avoid excluding roosting bats between June 1 and August 15. If bats must be removed during that time, they can contact their local MDIFW regional wildlife biologist for suggestions.

Individual bats may be removed from a living space at anytime and may be lethally removed if human or pet exposure is suspected. If exposure to a bat is suspected, contact the Maine Warden Service.

In addition, MDIFW has an Animal Damage Control Program through which qualifying individuals are authorized for specific activities when responding to human/wildlife conflicts. For those ADC agents authorized for bat work, MDIFW sent out a letter last week informing them of a policy change requiring department approval before bats can be excluded from a structure during this sensitive time period.

Many people are now aware of WNS and the devastating impact on little brown bat populations. For this reason and the appreciation for the bats role in insect control, citizens, and ADC agents have been very receptive to this new guidance. Regional wildlife biologists have recently met with several ADC agents to discuss this important issue and how homeowner needs and concerns and everyone's goal of minimizing additional little brown bat mortality can be compatible. So far so good.



## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- Commissioner Woodcock was a representative for Governor Paul LePage at a ceremony at Acadia National Park headquarters Tuesday morning. Commissioner Woodcock read a statement making June 26 "Quarter Day in the Classroom." Bass Head Lighthouse in Southwest Harbor is featured on the latest quarter in the U.S. Mint's America the Beautiful Quarters Program. The U.S. Mint releases five quarters each year, depicting 56 national parks and other national sites.
- Deputy Commissioner Erskine traveled with staff for a briefing on wind power projects in Kibby Twp.
- Commissioner Woodcock was in attendance at the Susie Konkell Dedication Ceremony at Scarborough Marsh honoring the Konkell family for their continued support of wetland habitat conservation.

## RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

### **A Regional Approach to Blanding's Turtle Conservation in the Northeast** - *Written by Jonathan Mays, RAS Reptile, Amphibian, & Invertebrate Group*

The range of Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) occurs in the mid-continent of North America, with the majority of populations occurring in the Great Lakes region and southern Ontario. In the northeast United States, there is a smaller contiguous population in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, disjunct populations in New York, and one population in Pennsylvania. Blanding's turtle populations are declining throughout their range, and in 2010 the Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC) identified Blanding's turtle as one of the highest priority reptile and amphibian species in the Northeast. Blanding's turtles are state-listed as endangered in Maine and listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in all five Northeast states where it occurs.

Recently, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and USGS Science Support Partnership sponsored a status assessment of Blanding's habitat and demographics in the Northeast. The status assessment found that Blanding's turtle populations appear to be at extreme risk due to the species life history characteristics and the existing and predicted habitat destruction within the species range. Blanding's turtles make frequent and relatively long overland movements to find suitable food resources, breeding opportunities, and nesting habitats. In the highly developed and populated landscape of the Northeast, these extensive movements expose Blanding's turtles to multiple risks including unsustainable road mortality.

In 2011, state fish and wildlife agencies in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Pennsylvania were awarded a Federal Competitive State Wildlife Grant to facilitate a regional approach to Blanding's turtle conservation. Goals include: a) the development of a regional conservation plan including an assessment of genetic variation throughout the region, b) development and implementation of a population monitoring protocol, and c) identification of priority focal areas for on-the-ground conservation. Information developed through this project will result in cooperative efforts to protect, manage, and restore habitat that is critical for Blanding's turtle in Maine and the Northeast.



## FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

**The Horns Pond Brook Trout Stocking** - *Written by Robert VanRiper, Biologist, Strong Headquarters*

Region D fisheries staff met Dry Mills Hatchery supervisor Greg Bell at the Stratton Brook trailhead. With us that morning was Ashley Malinowski, the Department's new Information and Education biologist on her first fisheries assignment.

The 400 Kennebeco-strain brook trout fry that Greg transported to the trailhead began their trip in coolers in bags of hatchery water injected with pure oxygen. They had not been fed for two days prior to being moved to minimize the amount of waste material produced by the fish during transport. Containers were secured to pack frames that had been modified with lightweight insulated plywood boxes.

Once the fish had been secured, off we went across Stratton Brook and up the mountain. After a beautiful but fast-paced hike, we arrived two and a half hours and four miles later at The Horns Pond. The Horns Pond glimmered in the sun and we could see numerous trout rising.

At the pond, we quickly deployed an inflatable toddler's wading pool and transferred the fish from the containers to the pool. Our careful preparations had paid off – every single one of the fingerlings had survived their journey up the mountain!

The fish were held in the wading pool until the water temperature in the pool matched that of the pond. This step is important to prevent mortality from thermal shock, and it can take some time. As the water temperatures begin to match more closely, water is added from the pond to further acclimate the fish. When the water temperatures matched, the pool was tipped and the new arrivals swam away. Several 'spectator' trout residents stepped up their interest by trying to eat the new arrivals. We were witness to some exciting chases, but in most cases the fry matched the larger fish for speed and managed to escape.

Before we started back down the mountain, we had a quick lunch on the shore of this lovely pond. It is a charming wild spot. Years before, I had accompanied a friend on a hike on this part of the Appalachian Trail. In those days, I always had a rod with me and on this occasion had the chance to fish The Horns Pond. I caught and released about a half dozen brookies then. That afternoon was as warm and sunny as this day was. With the exception of two curious hikers, I had the pond all to myself. The memory has stuck with me since then as a truly special place.

Anglers who don't mind putting in some effort will find The Horns Pond a unique angling experience. Having the opportunity to fish in a high elevation pond in such attractive surroundings is indeed a pleasure.



## MAINE WILDLIFE PARK & SWAN ISLAND



The Wildlife Park received a \$4500 'Global Releaf' grant from the American Forest Society to plant 35 new white pine and spruce trees around the picnic area at the park. Currently, white pines up to several hundred years old shade this popular part of the park. As these old giants age and deteriorate, we wanted to have new trees well on their way to creating a new canopy. Superintendent Curt Johnson and Assistant Superintendent Steve Oliveri, along with several volunteers, have been hard at work getting these trees into the ground.



### Spring Wildlife Education Programs at Wildlife Park and Swan Island

Over 2300 kids participated in wildlife/conservation education programs at IFW's 2 education facilities during May and June. At Swan Island, 259 kids attended 8 different programs. It would have been double that, however frequent rain and a week of flooding prevented us from running several scheduled programs. The wildlife park had over 2000 kids in 32 programs despite the unfortunate spring weather. Some days in May there were 19 school buses in the parking lot. Classroom teachers and homeschoolers count both destinations as excellent field trip experiences for their students.

## MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Major Gregg Sanborn and Warden Rick Stone share a moment Wednesday at a luncheon to mark the Major's last day for about a year.

That's good news – because a stem cell donor has been found and the Major is off for approximately a year to go through the therapy needed to cure his cancer, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. Gregg and Rick have shared much during their battles with the deadly disease and here's hoping both are about to be declared cancer free!



Warden Davis, Warden Martin, and Corporal Glidden assisted Baxter State Park Rangers and other rescue teams with the rescue of a 71 year old male that became stranded on the Hunt Trail above the tree line and spent the night out in the rainy weather. Due to the subject's diabetes and other medical conditions, the subject became exhausted, was unable to walk, and had to be carried down the mountain in a litter. Much of the upper half of the rescue required using ropes to lower the litter down the steepest sections of the trail. It took several more hours to carry the subject down to Katahdin Stream Campground. After spending approximately 23 hours on Katahdin, the subject was back at Katahdin Stream Campground where he was loaded into an ambulance and transported to Millinocket Regional Hospital.