

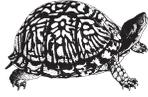


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, August 24, 2012

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Unfortunate Update on Largemouth Bass in Grand Falls Flowage - *Written by Joe Overlock, Fisheries Biologist*

Last fall department staff received an unconfirmed report of largemouth bass in Grand Falls Flowage in Washington County. Earlier this summer fisheries biologists at the Grand Lakes Regional Headquarters received a report that a local fishing guide had caught and killed a largemouth bass at the flowage. The next day another fish was caught and this specimen was confirmed by biologists to be an illegally introduced largemouth bass.

Following that confirmation, fisheries staff (with the help of Warden Service and the Passamaquoddy Tribe) began a thorough investigation of the area where the fish had been caught using the Department's electrofishing boat. Two exhaustive days were spent sampling suitable largemouth habitat. No largemouth bass were found as a result of this effort and we concluded that the population was still quite small.



At that time, all the reported fish were approximately the same size and came from the same area. Although extremely unlikely, we were hopeful that only a small number of fish had been stocked and perhaps they could all be removed before they had a chance to reproduce. By special rule a "No Size or Bag Limit" regulation was enacted on largemouth bass in Grand Falls Flowage (as well as many connected waters.)

Over the last month... To read the rest of this article, [click here](#).



New Hire in the Fisheries Division!

We are pleased to announce that Jeremiah Wood is our new Assistant Regional Biologist for the Fish River Lakes Region. Jeremiah will join us in Ashland on October 1 following completion of his current assignment as a Regional Management Biologist for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

A Fort Kent native, Jeremiah earned a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine and a Masters degree in Fisheries Biology from Utah State University. While earning his BS at UMaine, Jeremiah worked seasonally for our Regional staff in Enfield and Ashland, and for the Idaho Fish and Game Department. In his current position, Jeremiah has had primary responsibility for developing and implementing fisheries monitoring plans, including inventory and survey work for 60 miles of the Yellowstone River and its tributaries, and for developing and overseeing a monitoring project for 330 high-elevation lakes. In addition, his work in Maine, Idaho, and Montana has presented him with many opportunities for communicating with anglers and other public members in a variety of settings.

Please join me in welcoming Jeremiah back to Maine, and in supporting him as our newest staff member.

MAINE WILDLIFE PARK



About 1200 people attended the North Woods Law Promo Event at the Wildlife Park Thursday. North Woods Law is a popular 1-hour reality TV series about Maine Game Wardens on Animal Planet; a second season is currently being filmed.

Game Wardens LaFlamme, Spahr, Curtis, Parker, and Maccabe were gracious, patient and friendly with their 'fans'; some of whom waited over 2 hours in line to get autographs and photos; and K-9s Cruiser and Morgan behaved beautifully.



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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Recent Warden Activity - Prepared by Captain Chris Cloutier

- Warden Service personnel responded to eleven ATV crashes during the previous week, two of which involved fatalities. The first fatality involved a four year old boy who was riding an 80cc Yamaha four-wheeler on property owned by his grandfather in Shin Pond. It appears the boy attempted to drive up an incline when the machine rolled backwards and landed on top of him. He was transported to the hospital by LifeFlight, but later died as a result of the injuries sustained in the crash. The crash remains under investigation.
- The second fatality occurred in the Town of Naples in Cumberland County. A man and a woman on an ATV were traveling down a roadway when they pitched off the side of the road and dropped down into a fifteen foot ravine killing the woman and seriously injuring the man. Warden Service assisted the Cumberland County Sheriff's office with investigating the crash as it had occurred from a roadway. The Warden Service Forensic Mapping Unit processed the scene for the Sheriff's Office.
- On Thursday Game Warden Ed Christie responded to an ATV crash at 11:30PM in New Sweden. A husband and wife were operating their 2012 CanAm with approximately 300 miles on it. The wife was blinded by the dusty trail conditions and struck the ATV in front of them. This caused them to drive off the trail. The couple's ATV dropped down six feet from the trail surface striking a tree, launching the husband off the rear of the ATV. He flew over 35 feet and dropped down another 17 feet into a brook landing face down. He was transported to Cary Medical in Caribou and eventually to Bangor. The ATV was a total loss.
- Warden Ethan Buuck received a call from the Bradford Camps early in the week about two females that had been reported missing from the Big Reed Pond outpost camp. Wardens Buuck and Milligan loaded the trucks and went to Big Reed Pond, which is not easy to get into due to the remoteness and lack of roads nearby. The two wardens made the dark canoe ride across the pond to the camp where the girls were missing from. It was soon determined that the girls and wardens would have to wait until sunrise to get anything accomplished. Two planes were flying the next morning in search for the girls. Wardens Buuck and Pelkey made the trip back across the pond to get the K-9 unit started on a scent track. Just then, Warden Milligan made voice contact with the girls and radioed the location. Wardens Buuck and Pelkey were nearby and tracked down the girls with Warden Milligan. The girls were located on Reed Deadwater, approximately ¾ mile from the pond. The girls couldn't emphasize how happy they were to see the Wardens. Apparently the girls had decided to hike to the top of Reed Mountain from the camp. They were relying on a digital compass in their phone to navigate with, and all was going according to plan until the batteries died.

For the second year in a row members of the Maine Warden Service traveled to Loudon NH to participate in the annual New Hampshire State Police D.A.R.E. 5k. Warden Service once again took first place in the Law



Enforcement division much to the dismay of the New Hampshire State Police and New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Pictured in the white shirts from left to right are: Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Acting Major Shon Theriault, Warden Kris MacCabe, Captain Chris Cloutier, Warden Eric Rudolph, wearing the red shirts are members of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.



The wildlife complaint of the week was a fox that had

been shot with a blowgun dart. The complaint was a sick/ rabid fox had been hanging around a residence at Smith Pond in T3- Indian Purchase and the complainant had shot the fox. I went to the complainant's residence and while talking to the complainant I found that the fox had been around for several days and looked very sick. The complainant shot the fox and was placing it in a trash bag when he found the dart imbedded in the shoulder of the fox, (see photo of the dart), this complaint is still under investigation.

Tuesday the Maine Warden Service graduated 6 new wardens and one Tribal warden. The ceremony was held at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro. 15 wardens who have given their lives in the line of duty were honored, and several future wardens were also on hand.

Wdn. Kim Bates Div. D-Greenville assigned to The Forks
Wdn. Cliff Littlefield Div. C-Bangor assigned to Bucksport
Wdn. Paul Mason Div. D-Greenville assigned to Beaver Cove
Wdn. Sarah Miller Div. D-Greenville assigned to Charleston
Wdn. Seth Powers Div. E-Ashland assigned to Patten
Wdn. Troy Thibodeau Div. B-Sidney assigned to Kingfield
Tribal Warden Troy Francis – Penobscot Nation



WILDLIFE DIVISION

Rangeley Mix - *Written by Robert Cordes*

For decades, Region D biologists have worked cooperatively with The Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsman's Association (RRGSA) on a variety of projects. Several years ago, a smaller sub-group of individuals were particularly interested in helping the local deer population. This particular group of individuals has dedicated a lot of time educating themselves and neighbors, soliciting input from MDIFW and other experts, and pursuing several initiatives to benefit their local deer population.



The groups' current project involves working with several large forest landowners in the Rangeley area to modify the seed mixtures that the company uses for seeding winter roads and log landings. The initial intention of the project was to experiment with replacing a landowner's current seed mixture, which has the sole intent of soil stabilization, to a mixture that can stabilize soil while providing high quality forage for deer. We also wanted to make sure that there is no significant increase in the cost of this practice to the landowner.

MDIFW helped the group design...to read more of this article, [click here](#).

For more information about the RRGSA seeding initiative, [click here](#).

Brownfield WMA Prescribed Fire - *Written by Ryan B. Robichaeu, Lands Management Biologist*

The use of prescribed fire as a management tool is being implemented at the Brownfield Wildlife Management Area, with planning and preparatory work having been completed the Wildlife Division is waiting on appropriate weather conditions to implement an initial burn at the WMA.

IFW is responsible for the management of the Brownfield WMA, specifically to provide habitat for the wildlife resources of the state and public recreational access. The area where we are looking to conduct the prescribed fire is a Pitch-Pine/Scrub Oak forest, which is ranked as an S2 forest community (imperiled in Maine). The rarity of the forest type is due to the loss of the habitat to development, as well as the natural succession of the community – mainly due to lack of management geared towards its perpetuation. In the past, IFW has attempted to manage for pitch-pine/scrub oak by mechanically harvesting the areas with moderate success. This forest type is considered fire dependent to perpetuate, which is why IFW is interested in introducing fire to manage it.

From a wildlife perspective, there are several rare, threatened and endangered species associated with the natural community – mainly butterfly and moth species that depend on the pitch-pine/scrub oak forest type. The prescribed fire will also benefit game species by increasing browse and providing escape cover and other food sources.

From a fire management perspective,...to read more of this article, [click here](#).



RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT SECTION

Training at the NCTC - *Written by Don Katnik, Habitat Group Leader*

Although maps can be very powerful, the true power of Geographic Information System (GIS) software is the ability to analyze geographic patterns based on feature characteristics. The earliest scientific application of this concept was Dr. John Snow's map analysis in 1854 to identify the cause of the London cholera epidemic. Dr. Snow mapped houses in which people had contracted cholera in relation to the location of city wells and discovered that there was a spatial pattern between where the wells were located and who was getting sick. Somewhat more recently, Amy Meehan of the Habitat Group attended "Spatial Distribution, Animal Movement and Home Range Analysis" training at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in West Virginia. The NCTC is a unique facility that provides cost-efficient dorm rooms and cafeteria-style food in proximity to state-of-the-art computer labs and lecture halls. In a modern extension of Dr. Snow's cholera analysis, MDIFW uses GIS to analyze movements and home ranges of radio-tagged wildlife in relation to features on the landscape such as habitat. Of course, the technology has become much more complex – many animals now are "tagged" with sophisticated GPS or satellite collars that mark their location dozens if not hundreds of times per day. Today we map not a handful of wells but tens of thousands of habitat features. Statistical techniques have become increasingly complex along with the technology and the amount of data we are processing. These tools will benefit MDIFW greatly. For example, we are analyzing black bear home-ranges from locations collected by GPS collars, habitat selection of black racer snakes in southern Maine, and movement patterns of a golden eagle in western Maine. While mention of a class like this may make a lot of people's eyes glaze over, without these types of analyses, all we have are some X and Y coordinates! MDIFW is fortunate to have access to such training to allow us to keep current with emerging technologies.

