



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Tuesday, November 22, 2011

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

All of us at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife wish you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We are particularly thankful this year for all the hard working men and women at DIF&W.

We are also thankful for the beautiful outdoors we are all able to enjoy here in Maine. This week, whether you are hunting, fishing, hiking, ATVing, and in some places perhaps snowmobiling! – please do so safely.



Best wishes for a great Thanksgiving,
Commissioner Chandler Woodcock
Deputy Commissioner Andrea Erskine



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

- Next Sportsman's Forum:
Webb River Sportsman's Club
Monday November 28, 2011 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Canton Point Road in Dixfield
The evening includes dinner, presentation and Q&A with The Commissioner.
Contact: Noel Brown 645-2797
- The IF&W Advisory Council will be meeting at the Headquarters Conference Room on Tuesday, Nov. 29 from 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon.

Four University of Maine at Farmington alumni were recently honored for their significant contributions to the university, the community and the state at the annual UMF Alumni Awards Reception.

Presentations were made by Ryan Low, class of 1997 and UMF vice president for administration, to Charlotte Warren, mayor of Hallowell; Chandler Woodcock, commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Alison Hagerstrom, executive director for Greater Franklin Development Corporation; and Lou Hight, area businessman.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 736 Phone calls
- 457 Emails
- 60 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

Chandler Woodcock, class of 1978, was recognized for the way he has always valued education and service to others. Recently appointed by Gov. Paul LePage as commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, he has also served in the Maine State Senate representing Franklin County. He taught high school for 25 years in Livermore Falls, Mt. Blue and Skowhegan and led the Mt. Blue girls' varsity basketball team to two Class A state championships as their coach.

--Sun Journal--



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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

WILDLIFE DIVISION

From Richard Thurston, a member of the IF&W Advisory Council, who was with us at Cabela's this summer for the moose drawing, which happened to fall on his 70th birthday. We were thrilled for Dick when his name was picked for the first time. Dick reports in on his successful hunt - congrats, Dick!

Thanks to all of you, your work with Maine's wildlife resources does provide an opportunity for "Lifetime" experiences.

To have my name drawn on my 70th birthday, after waiting so many years, was a thrill. Judy and I scouted from sun-up to sun-down for 10 days prior to opening day and never saw "the big guy". With the help of two friends who would help with calling, we decided on a section of woods to start the hunt. We were approximately a mile and a half from the trucks when the 870#, 55" big guy responded to their calls. It was 8:00am and we had passed on two others who responded to the calls, so luck was with us. Grampa dumped him in his tracks, so luck was there again. My oldest son (sub) who has hunted with me for 34 years in the western mountains and my two oldest grandsons who are 16 and have hunted with grampa since they were 10 were there. It doesn't get any better than that and we will have the mount to help recall this event for many years to come.



The third meeting of The Nonresident Hunter Task Force was held Sunday, November 20 at DIF&W Headquarters. The meeting was attended by Task Force members, as mandated by Legislature and several interested parties. It was a lively discussion, and the final report will be presented to the IF&W Legislative Committee on December 1. The final report will be available on the DIF&W website after that date. The minutes of the group's Oct. 23 meeting were approved and are now available for reading on the website [here](#). The group, despite this being the final mandated meeting, decided to continue meeting to work on issues of importance to the Department and scheduled their next meeting for February 6, 2012.

Commissioner Woodcock recently participated in a Sportsmen's Forum held in Hiram by the Kezar Falls Fish and



Game Club. 75 Club members and guests enjoyed a meal of wild game recipes, followed by a fundraising raffle, and an engaging Q & A session. The Commissioner was accompanied by IF & W Biologists Scott Lindsay and Judy Camuso and Ben Tucker from the Department's I & E Division.



Commissioner Woodcock answers a question at the Sportsmen's Forum hosted

by the Buck's Mills Rod and Gun Club of Bucksport, Maine. The Commissioner was accompanied by Biologists Greg Burr and Tom Schaeffer, Game Warden Brian Tripp, Hunting Safety Director Mike Sawyer, and Outreach Coordinator Ben Tucker. The lively and engaging Q&A portion of the meeting was wide ranging and addressed topics from many aspects of both fisheries and wildlife.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Emily MacCabe reports that on Nov. 15 she attended the youth shooting team practice at the Wilton Fish and Game Club. The group recently finished their indoor shooting range and has now formed two teams of youth for competition. "I was very impressed with the hard work they have put into the project and the level of skill the team has already achieved. I met with team coaches to learn more about their equipment needs and have loaned them a few of our small .22 rifles for their youngest team members to practice with. I was also able to give them some extra ammo and hearing and eye protection."

Emily spoke at the Wilton Fish & Game club's monthly meeting on Nov. 16. She presented the group with information about the IFW youth and family programs. The club is looking for opportunities to expand their offerings for community members and have a great deal of interest in working with the Hooked on Fishing program as well as getting more involved with youth archery.

If you would like Emily to speak to your community or sportsman's organization, please contact her at emily.maccabe@maine.gov.

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Fish Stocking

Maine Warden Brian Tripp from our Central Division gets some help from daughter Addisyn in stocking fish in Walker Pond.



In the "you never know what you'll find in a fish hatchery" category, this eel was discovered when staff were upgrading the water supply lines at the Enfield Hatchery.



MAINE OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund recently announced winners of their grant funding for the latest round of applications.

Projects at DIF&W that were awarded funding are:

- A Partnership to Deliver Youth Shooting Sports Education
- Assessing Moose Population and Demography
- Habitat Protection and Acquisition at the Alonzo Garcelon Wildlife Mgt. Area
- Bat Population Monitoring in Maine
- A Multi scale Study of Rusty Blackbirds, Nest Predation
- Urban Moose Capture and Relocation Equipment Request
- Maine Warden Service K9 Team GPS Collars
- Identifying Wetland Restoration and Protection Opportunities
- Completing Maine's Important Bird Areas Using Maine eBird
- Establishing an Ongoing Migratory Bird
- Education and Outreach
- Aldrich Brook Stream Reconnection Project

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE



On November 8th, 2011, law enforcement officials, legislators, local citizens, area school children and the 89 year old granddaughter of one of the victims, came together in the community of East Machias, Maine to pay tribute to Washington County game wardens Lyman Hill and Charles Niles. Hill and Niles were gunned down by poachers on November 8, 1886 and are the 1st Game Wardens in Maine and most likely in the U.S. to die in the line of duty.

Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Major Gregg Sanborn and Warden Joe McBrine spoke words honoring the two men. State Senator Kevin Raye, read accounts of the tragedy from publications at the time. Warden Hill's granddaughter, Laura Hill Dennison and great granddaughter, Stephanie Larrabee, also attended the event to pay homage to their fallen relative.

As we count the blessings at our Thanksgiving tables this week let us be mindful of and grateful for the outstanding service that the Maine Warden Service continues to provide to all the citizens of this State. We honor their heritage, their professionalism and their continued dedication. We pray for their continued safety in the performance of their duties.

Photos:

Top Left to Right:

-Senator Kevin Raye talks with Laura Dennison of Whiting, who is the granddaughter of Lyman O. Hill and Stephanie Larrabee, who is Hill's great granddaughter. Warden Joe McBrine is shown in the back

-Colonel Joel Wilkinson Speaking

-Major Gregory Sanborn shooting and Sgt. Ron Dunham. Shots were fired for each fallen warden as their name was read.