

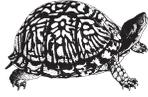


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



Tuesday, November 1, 2011

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

This coming week, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and other DIF&W staff travel around Maine for Public Hearings on Maine's fishing regulations. Each Public Hearing begins at 6:30 PM.

- **Nov. 1** Presque Isle (P.I. Inn & Convention Center)
- **Nov. 2** Millinocket (Stearns High School Library, 199 State Street)
- **Nov. 7** Ellsworth (Ramada Inn, 215 High Street)
- **Nov. 8** Brunswick (Brunswick High School Multi-Purpose Room, 116 Maquoit Road)
- **Nov. 9** Rangeley (Rangeley Lakes Regional School, 43 Mendolia Road)

The Commissioner is speaking Thursday, Nov. 3 at the monthly meeting of the Penobscot County Conservation Association. He will also attend the Land for Maine's Future Board meeting Tuesday, Nov. 8 in Augusta

The next two Sportsman's Forums with Commissioner Woodcock:

Bucks Mills Rod & Gun Club

Bucksport, ME
Wednesday, Nov. 16
7 – 9 PM

Contact: Frank Dunbar 469-2388

Kezar Falls Rod & Gun Club

Sacopee Valley Middle School,
South Hiram ME
Sunday, Nov. 20
6-8 PM

Includes dinner with wild game recipes!
Contact: Barry Hadlock 625-4347

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,242 Phone calls
- 614 Emails
- 117 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Update on Access, Dams and Hatcheries!

Boat Access

Jean Castonguay Logging & Excavation of Livermore Falls, working with DIF&W Engineers has completed construction of the new ramp at the Ellis Pond boat access site in Roxbury. The Site is open to use.

Design work continues on new access sites at St. John River in Grand Isle – Sandy River in New Sharon – Bog Lake in Northfield – and Canton Lake in Canton.

Dams

Improvements to the dam at Lower Pennamaquan in Pembroke are complete for this year. Some minor work remains to be done next year.

Hatcheries

Projects are on going at Enfield – New Filter Building and Effluent enhancement – and we are doing Effluent enhancement as well in Casco.

Other work:

Fisheries – road improvements are ongoing at Spectacle Pond in Augusta and improvements to the road at Umsaskis are complete.



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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

Hunter Safety is a critical part of everything the Department, and particularly the Warden Service, does in terms of education and implementation of rules and laws.

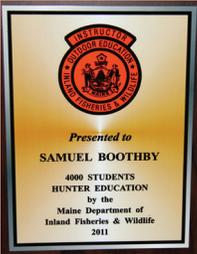
Three of Maine's longest-tenured hunter education instructors were recognized last Thursday by the Department for their efforts.

Sam Boothby of Gorham, Phil Guimond of Gorham and Mike Richard of Old Orchard Beach each received plaques to commemorate their milestones. Boothby is in his 40th year of hunter's safety instruction, while Guimond has successfully taught 5,000 students and Richard has taught 3,000 students.

Boothby, a retired high school teacher, began teaching hunter's safety courses in 1971 – 15 years before Maine started requiring the completion of a hunter's safety course in order to purchase a hunting license in the state.

"I enjoy standing up and teaching," said Boothby, who has passed 4,000 students through to hunting certification since 1986. "That's what I was trained to do. You can get in these smaller groups and have a better hands-on approach to the material. We're using more audio-visual (methods) now than ever before, but the message is still the same."

Boothby credited the advent of the blaze-orange clothing requirement, the use of an any-deer permit system and the ethics taught during classroom instruction have been the most important factors in keeping people safe in Maine year after year.



Game Warden Mike Favreau from Rockwood sent in these two photos from around his area. Thanks, Mike!



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

IFW Landowner Relations Coordinator Mark Latti and Game Warden Lieutenant Dan Scott attended the Sportsman's Forest Landowners Association fall meeting in the Rangeley Area. The association is comprised of large landowners and user groups, and works together to solve issues before they become larger problems. Among the landowners attending were Plum Creek, Wagner, Huber, Seven Islands, Irving Woodlands and others. Wagner and Seven Islands provided a tour of their working forests, and meeting topics included LURC reform, Non-Resident Hunter numbers, upcoming legislative issues and the Keeping Maine's Forests initiative.

Another Successful Hunt of a Lifetime Story:

Don and Louise Burnett of #9 Lake Outfitters worked with DIF&W to host Zachary Glessner on his moose hunt. Zachary and his parents, Doug and Melodie, were participating in The Hunt of a Lifetime and drove to Bridgewater, Maine from their home in Pennsylvania. Zachary, 14 and 90 pounds, has a complex cancer affecting his thyroid. Zachary's dream has always been to shoot a moose with "big paddles". The first day Zachary passed up on 2 nice cows and after not seeing a moose the next morning he said he would really be very happy with any bull. Zachary was ecstatic over his 5 point 625 pound bull he shot that afternoon. As the hunting party approached the downed moose, the Burnetts report, "we all had tears in our eyes. Zachary's joy and excitement just sent shivers down everyone's back. He said he will be back for the big paddles some other year. The Hunt of a Lifetime is a wonderful program fulfilling the dreams of seriously ill children, dreams that may never come to reality if it were not for this program." The Burnetts especially thanked Commissioner Woodcock and DIF&W for supporting the program.



Zachary, his parents and his moose.

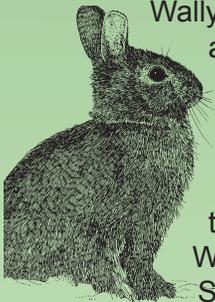
MAINE WILDLIFE PARK

- Steve Oliveri started his new role as Assistant Superintendent this week. Steve comes to the park with extensive experience in facility management from the Viles Arboretum in Augusta. Steve also has a wildlife background that he is anxious to return to in his new role at the park. Welcome aboard Steve!
- The park has the privilege of being featured by MPBN's "Incredible Maine" production. Filming took place over the course of two days this week and the program is set to air next year in April around our opening time.
- The park transitioned to its fall hours on Saturday, October 15th – the gatehouse now closes at 3:30 pm and the park closes at 5:00pm.

WILDLIFE DIVISION



Jen Vashon, Wildlife Biologist for bear and lynx reports: the opening of the coyote and fox trapping season on October 16 signals the time when wildlife biologists and wardens must be prepared to respond to incidental captures of Canada lynx, a federally threatened species. Although Maine's trapping regulations have been modified to reduce the chance that a lynx will be caught in a trap, accidental catches still occur. When a lynx is caught in a trap it is mandatory that trappers report the catch to IFW. When this occurs, wardens and biological staff work closely to collect information to document how the animal was captured, assess the lynx for any injuries that it may have incurred while held in the trap, check compliance with state trapping regulations, and when possible assist with releasing the lynx. Since lynx are most common in more remote sections of Maine, our response to these incidents can take significant staff time. However, our response provides opportunities to collect and share information to protect lynx and allow trapping to continue. During the first two weeks of the season, MDIFW biologists and wardens have responded to five calls from trappers that have accidentally caught lynx in traps. All 5 lynx were released alive from traps by either the trapper or IFW staff and none of the lynx appeared to be injured by the trap. Although Maine's general trapping season remains open through the end of December, we receive most reports of lynx in October and November. On average, the Department receives 4 reports/year of lynx in traps with as many as 11 lynx accidentally caught in one year.



Wally Jakubas, IFW Mammal Group Leader, attended a regional executive board meeting to review and approve components of the conservation strategy for New England cottontail for Maine and New England. The meeting was held in late October and was attended by representatives from 6 northeastern states, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Wildlife Management Institute. The regional executive committee was formed to coordinate and steer conservation activities for New England cottontail among the states where the rabbit still occurs. New England cottontails are endangered in Maine, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service must make a determination on their listing status under the federal Endangered Species Act by 2016. It is hoped that regional conservation efforts will be sufficient to preclude the listing of New England cottontail as a federal threatened or endangered species. The measurable objectives, which will guide New England cottontail management in each state, were accepted at the meeting. In addition, current plans for captive propagation of New England cottontail were approved, along with plans for Best Management Practices, communication and outreach, and parcel selection for habitat recovery. The final conservation strategy is slated for completion by January 2012.

John Pratte, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor, sends an update on the landowner relations positions concentrating on deer issues:

- The Department was awarded a grant to fund three part-time positions over the next 14 months.
- These individuals will develop and implement a strategy for targeting landowners with the potential to implement practices that would improve deer wintering habitat and/or improve deer fitness and therefore winter survival.
- This effort will include developing informational brochures, articles and outreach events to educate landowners.
- For landowners with the potential and willingness to do so, they can assist with developing plans and/or referring landowners to programs that may offer financial and technical assistance such as WHIP and EQUIP through the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- The three positions will be located in Jonesboro, Enfield and Ashland.