



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Tuesday, September 20, 2011

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK

The Commissioner has been on the road meeting with Outfitters in Upper Penobscot and Aroostook Counties; participating in the Upper Andro Two Fly Contest; meeting with Regional Staff at the Sidney Headquarters; discussing fishing initiatives at Parmacheenee Lake; he will be speaking tomorrow night at the Public Forum hosted by the Norway-Paris Fish and Game Club (Sept. 21, 6:30 – 8:30 PM) and touring state lands in Northern Maine next week with Doug Denico, the Director of the Maine Forest Service.

ENGINEERING & REALTY

MDIFW chief engineer Ron Taylor recently returned from a trip to Vermont, where he aided members of the Maine DOT in the massive cleanup effort following Hurricane Irene's devastation there.

"It was an experience I will never forget," said Taylor, who helped rebuild bridges and roads damaged by the storm.

Before coming to MDIFW, Taylor spent 13 years as a bridge construction engineer for MDOT. He volunteered to join some MDOT personnel in Vermont following the late August storm, and he and others from Maine worked with the National Guard, the Vermont Agency of Transportation and private contractors in the storm's wake.

"The damage to the infrastructure was widespread and extensive," Taylor said. "It was incredible for all of us to be working together to rebuild roads and bridges."



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

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- The Predation Management Advisory Group continues its research, analysis and discussions, and a draft report will be issued in the near future. Comments, suggestions and ideas are encouraged and can be sent to Shawn Haskell at Shawn.Haskell@maine.gov
- The Task Force to Examine the Decline in the Number of Nonresident Hunters has scheduled its first meeting for Sunday, Oct. 2, 4-6 pm. This Task Force, a legislative mandate, is a partnership between DIF&W and the Maine Office of Tourism. Comments, suggestions and ideas are encouraged and can be sent to Edie Smith at Edith.A.Smith@maine.gov.
- Updates on the work of these committees, and others, along with their reports, will be posted on the DIF&W website as work is completed. As always, we do encourage suggestions and feedback.

Read the report from DIF&W's Assistant Regional Wildlife Biologist Robert Cordes on the general management of WMAs and the specific management of the WMA in Strong, home to a growing population of woodcock. Woodcock is a migratory species that spends the spring, summer and fall in Maine and requires a diversity of habitats. They prosper in the Strong WMA – [click here](#) to read more.

INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,151 Phone calls
- 544 Emails
- 85 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION



This avid angler has managed to catch two very large togue during a single season. Both were caught from Embden

Lake in Somerset County. His first was 32.5 inches long with an estimated weight of 15 pounds; the second was 35 inches long and weighed in at 19.5 pounds. Embden Lake has a reputation for harboring very large togue, though the fishing for them is notoriously slow. Except for this fellow (who wishes to stay anonymous...).



The Fisheries Division restoration of Big Reed Pond is progressing. In June 600 yearling Arctic charr that were cultured and raised from original Big Reed fish at Mountain Springs Trout Farm, were released representing the first fish to be reintroduced after reclamation with rotenone in October 2010. The remaining 500 yearling charr in captivity continue to thrive, now averaging 9.5 inches. An additional 300 of these fish are scheduled to be reintroduced to Big Reed this coming fall; twelve charr will be fitted with acoustic tags so biologists can track their movements, gaining valuable data on survival, seasonal habitat use, and location of spawning areas.

Update on Upper and Middle Dam Renewal Project: work was completed in the fall of 2010 at Upper Dam on:

- Safety improvements to the access road from Route 16 to the dam operator's house
- Preparation of a construction staging yard adjacent to the access road in the field inside Gate #3 on the State of Maine land.
- While there were plans to start major construction at Upper Dam during the 2011 construction season, the project has been delayed as we continue to work with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to finalize design and construction details and the schedule and it is now unlikely that significant construction will occur this year.
- The design concept at Upper Dam remains unchanged and construction will likely remain a multi-year project, currently targeted to start this coming spring. We expect more information regarding the Middle Dam project will be available after plans for Upper Dam are finalized.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

It has been a busy week for the MWS, with boaters still out enjoying the beautiful weather and bear hunters out in the woods. Lots of nuisance animal calls this time of year especially. Just in Section 7, Wardens responded to 23 calls for service with 8 of them falling into the nuisance, sick, injured or dead wildlife criteria. Also, Wardens Tripp, Hutcheson, Simmons and Osgood attended an MDEA sponsored seminar on the 'Bath Salts' epidemic. Topics discussed included identifying behavior of people using so that the subjects can be medically treated. The important message is that users are in a state of emergency and need medical attention immediately.

Special recognition goes this week to MWS Lt. Shon Theriault as he deploys to Afghanistan for 8-12 months. Shon finishes up his Warden Service duties this week and will put on his other uniform for the US Army. When he reports to Afghanistan, he will be working in potentially hazardous regions doing very important work with communication towers.

Good luck Shon and we'll be thinking of you!



To honor all the men and women of 9/11, Warden Pomerleau writes about an encounter with a true hero: *Today on 9/11, I was patrolling in Ashland when I spotted a truck parked along the Aroostook River. The truck had a New York registration. The first angler I can see is fly fishing. As I work my way closer to the river I spot the second angler who is holding a spinning rod with the lure tied on his line. When I made contact with the pair we start talking about bear hunting and who they are hunting with. I observe one angler getting his wallet out, as to get his license, and I have not yet asked to see their licenses. He stated, "Would you like to see my license." I agreed I would. When he opened his wallet I could see a shiny silver badge. I asked the angler "who do you work for?" and he stated he was a New York City Fire Fighter. He did not dwell on the fact that he was one of the most honored men in America today. He quickly picked up conversation and was asking me where to fish, and if we have had a lot of rain, if I have seen a lot of bears and he was telling me how bad the ticks and rabies were in the state of New York. I did my best to help this duo catch some fish and told them some other local places to wet a line. They asked about the fishing rules and I told them what they were and I gave them one of our new law books. They asked me to stop by, where they were staying this week. I could tell the invitation was actually real. As I bid them farewell and I wished them luck with their bear hunt I walked away thinking, what a special encounter this was. On any given year, I may never check a New York City Fire Fighter, and today the tenth anniversary of such a tragic event I got the privilege to converse with such an honorable man. And I think I will check in with them this week to shake his hand again, and hopefully congratulate him on a successful hunt.*

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

This Saturday (Sept. 24), come to the Maine Wildlife Park to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day, from 10 AM to 2 PM, for our "Wild about White Tails" Programs and Activities. Come talk with deer biologists and game wardens from DIF&W, learn how to age a deer based on antler beam and teeth, understand the importance of Deer Wintering Areas, watch local taxidermist Dana Soucier mount a trophy buck from start to finish and attend a book signing by author R.G. Bernier (see his photo of sparring bucks). Lots more going on too! Hope to see you on Saturday at the Park! For more information www.mainewildlifepark.com



DIF&W has been participating in a series of hunter safety/community outreach events at Walmarts across the state. Pictured is the DIF&W booth this past weekend at the Auburn Walmart.

It's that time of year again to announce the annual Maine Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest – commonly known as the "Duck Stamp Contest"!

There are plans this year to make the competition and display of all the art bigger and better. So, calling all artists! To read the rules and requirements, visit the DIF&W website [here](#). Any questions? Call Kristina Paulhus at 287-5244.



Sixty-four women participated in the Department's 2011 "BOW: Becoming an Outdoors Woman Introductory Skills Weekend" Sept. 16-18 at Camp Caribou in Winslow. Directed by I&E's Emily MacCabe, they had perfect weather this year and lots of enthusiastic learners!

To sign up for next year, contact Emily now at emily.maccabe@maine.gov

To see all the photos from this year's BOW weekend, [click here!](#)

