

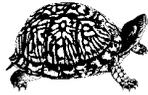


Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, July 22, 2011

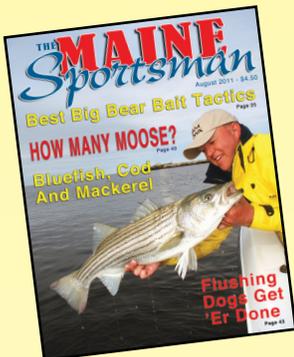
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK

- Deputy Commissioner Andrea Erskine joined Gov. Paul LePage at his "Capitol for a Day" event Thursday, July 21, in Dover-Foxcroft.



Upcoming

- Commissioner Chandler Woodcock will attend the grand opening of the Town of Frenchville and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's Public Boat Landing at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 28. Town officials have invited representatives of all participating agencies, contractors, engineers, and the public to the event.
- Commissioner Woodcock will lead a public question-and-answer session during a Sportsman's Forum hosted by the Windham-Gorham Rod and Gun Club and the Sebago Lakes Angler's Association from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10. The Commissioner will answer questions about his role in the Department and about hunting, fishing and outdoors-related topics in Maine.



Commissioner Interview

- Maine Sportsman publisher Harry Vanderweide writes a lengthy interview with Commissioner Chandler Woodcock in the August issue, available now on newsstands.

Missed an issue?

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

FISHERIES DIVISION

- The Greenville Fisheries staff is working cooperatively with the Moosehead Lake Chamber of Commerce, Plum Creek, The Natural Resource Education Center at Moosehead (NREC), and local youth groups to improve fishing opportunities near Greenville. The concept is to improve access and a picnic area near Rum Pond so anglers who may not be prepared to venture into the more remote areas of the North Woods can experience the wild character of the Moosehead Lake Region. Rum Pond is a large wild trout pond with no development and is located a few miles from downtown Greenville. It has an abundant trout population but access is tough. Plum Creek has made improvements to the winter road on the east side of the pond so anglers can get a little closer to the pond. NREC will be purchasing materials for picnic tables and DIF&W personnel will work with local youth groups to clean up the area and improve the trail to the pond later this summer.



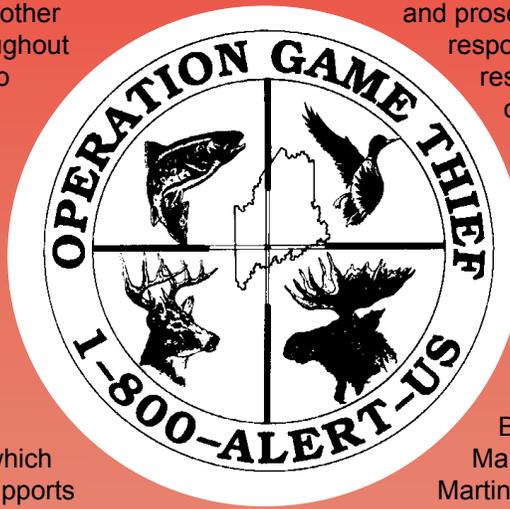
- On July 12, the Embden Fish Rearing Station was visited by the Free State Corvette Club from the Baltimore, Maryland area, driving nine corvettes that were built within the last 15 years. One had an estimated resale value of \$85,000. DIF&W Fish Culture Supervisor Gene Arsenault provided the hatchery tour, which was prearranged by member Rick Schinzel. Seventeen club members, family and friends made the journey to spend vacation time in Maine. They were staying in Skowhegan that night and later were going to spend time in Bar Harbor and eat lobster.
- The Department has **8 fish hatcheries**. Our website lists their locations and the species that are reared at each. Plus, view the year's **fish stocking reports**.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

- Approximately 25 states and Canadian provinces were represented at the 2011 International Association of Natural Resource Crimestoppers Conference, which was held July 10-13 at the Bar Harbor Regency. The group includes anti-poaching and other crimestopper programs from throughout North America; programs similar to Operation Game Thief in Maine.

In 2006, the conference was held in Portland and was so well received that the members decided they wanted to return to Maine this year.

The Maine Warden Service has a strong working partnership with IANRC, as well as the Maine Operation Game Thief program, which is a non-profit organization that supports paying rewards for information



leading to the apprehension of poachers. Without the willingness of the public to participate and continue to be the ears and eyes for the Warden Service, wardens would be unable to continue to successfully apprehend and prosecute intentional violators who steal from responsible people who enjoy Maine natural resources. This program provides for the on line and anonymous conduit for information to get to Maine game wardens.

Many MWS members provided invaluable assistance at this year's conference. They were: Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Major Gregg Sanborn, Lt. Kevin Adam, Sgt. Chris Simmons, Sgt. Scott Thrasher, Cpl. Aaron Cross, and wardens Jared Herrick, Josh Bubier, Tom McKenney, Phil Richter, Mark Hutcheson, Dave Simmons and Scott Martin, and members of the Maine State Police and Marine Patrol.



- Warden Scott Stevens (left) provided assistance to Jim Williams of the MSCommNet radio project office to facilitate DEP's site assessment near Sugarloaf. "Scott's assistance was huge," Williams told Tom Driscoll, the project's outreach coordinator, and others. Added Tom, "We certainly do appreciate the assistance of the game wardens to help make the radio project a success."

- The Maine Warden Service warns all persons riding ATV's to use caution when riding at night and drive at a speed that allows them to avoid hazards within the range of their headlights.

The warning comes after an Aroostook County man was seriously injured Thursday night after hitting a tree that had fallen onto a trail during a storm.



- Warden Ryan Fitzpatrick reported this week of receiving an OGT (Operation Game Thief) complaint in Frenchville about a fisherman taking over his limit of brook trout. "After a brief interview with the man, I was given the 13 trout and the play by play of how he caught them. The photo explains it all – 13 illegal brook trout," said Fitzpatrick.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

- DIF&W Natural Science Educator Lisa Kane led two different programs in the Rangeley Lakes area last week. On Thursday, she conducted four programs on owls and owl pellets for more than 80 EcoVenture campers. After a program about owls in Maine, each camper was tasked with dissecting an owl pellet, which is the regurgitated remains of the indigestible parts (fur and bones) of the mice, birds or other small mammals the owl last ate. The kids really got into identifying different bones and reconstructing the mouse skeletons. Finding an intact skull was a highlight. Most of the kids took their bones home to show their parents, and to glue them down to black construction paper, making a fine model skeleton!



On Friday morning, Lisa teamed up with the Rangeley Heritage Trust and BioDiversity Institute to lead a program about loons and eagles of the Rangeley area. Lisa reports, “taking off in two pontoon boats, we toured Cupsuptic Lake and were rewarded with many sightings of banded loon pairs being studied by Biodiversity biologists (although unfortunately, no chicks). We also saw a fair number of eagles -- and actually watched a fledgling eagle take its first flight from the nest! An adult was screaming encouragement from a nearby perch, where a sibling had already landed. After flapping its wings for several minutes, while still holding on to the edge of its nest, this ‘fledge’ took the leap and made a short but graceful first flight to join its sib and parent. This was certainly a great way to end the boat tour, and to instill an awareness and appreciation of the eagles and loons of this beautiful part of western Maine.”



- Jeff Boudreau, a junior studying conservation law enforcement at Unity College, has been volunteering some of his time this summer to help DIF&W Youth Activities Coordinator Emily MacCabe with the Hooked on Fishing program. This week he spent time in Augusta working on the fishing equipment and helping load up supplies for an event in Lincoln. He also is going to join Emily at the event to help out with instruction and working with the kids. “Jeff is a such a great help!,” MacCabe said.



- DIF&W participated in a “Keep Maine Healthy” event at Barnes and Noble last weekend in Augusta. The event was co-sponsored by Barnes and Noble and Healthreach. The DIF&W table included information about all Department programs and what kids can do in the outdoors! Above, a girl holds fish identification and animal track cards the Department gives children to learn about Maine fish and wildlife.

WILDLIFE DIVISION



Readers were curious about this picture from last week's Weekly Report. DIF&W Wildlife Biologist Randy Cross (left in photo) explains what's going on: *I like the picture, especially, because it captures the very beginning of a heart-stopping charge by the bear. I am in the middle of a step toward the bear and the bear has lowered his head and is just starting to do his best to meet me half way. I am outside of the "circle," so he can't reach me, but... It's moments like this that the 8-foot pole syringe seems really short and my 245-pound frame really small and frail.*



As Maine's beach season hits high gear, beachgoers are reminded to care for rare Piping Plovers, according to DIF&W and Maine Audubon. A [press release](#) gave beachgoers tips on how to care for these endangered species.

DIF&W Deer and Moose Biologist Lee Kantar recently attended the North American Moose Conference, where he presented an abstract for an upcoming paper on the "Double-Count Survey." It's a relatively new study model to count deer and moose that is under way in Maine after being successfully adopted in nearby New Brunswick, Canada. An [article on our website](#) explains the survey and why it's important for Maine researchers and hunters.



INFO DESK

- This week the front office of the Department received and replied to:
 - 1,104 Phone calls
 - 424 E-mails
 - 85 Walk-ins

DO YOU KNOW?

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION from the Maine Wildlife Park's educational signs: *How much is a beaver pelt worth?*

2007: \$21 2008: \$21 2009: \$18
2010: \$16 2011: \$20