



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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Friday, August 5, 2011

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER CHANDLER E. WOODCOCK

- Commissioner's Schedule:
 - Over the next two weeks, Commissioner Woodcock will meet with regional staff in all of the Department's seven regional offices: Gray, Bangor, Sidney, Greenville, Strong, Enfield and Ashland.
 - Also coming up next week:
 - Addressing warden in-service training
 - Attending Downeast Lakes Land Trust meeting
 - Touring the UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Bryant Pond
 - Being interviewed on WVOM with Ric Tyler & George Hale at 7:04 a.m. on Aug. 10.

Q&A IN WINDHAM

The public is invited to a Q&A session with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner
Hosts: **Windham-Gorham Rod & Gun Club** and the Sebago Lakes Anglers Association
Location: Windham-Gorham Club, Tow Path Road in Gorham
Date: Wednesday, August 10
Time: 7- 9 p.m.
Refreshments will be served.

Missed an issue?

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

INFORMATION CENTER

This week, the Department's front office received and replied to:

- 1,069 Phone calls
- 478 Emails
- 66 Walk-ins

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- Gov. LePage this week announced the state's acquisition of a significant easement on **Indian Pond on the Kennebec River**, which includes 1,278 acres with 52 miles of shoreline around Indian Pond. DIF&W Commissioner Woodcock is quoted in the article commenting on the easement.
- Wildlife Biologist Jen Vashon of the Mammal Group attended a meeting on lynx management in the northeastern U.S. on Aug. 3 in New Hampshire. U.S., state (NH, VT, and ME) and federal biologists discussed a regional management approach for lynx based on Maine's experience, both biological and social.
- Biologist Jonathan Mays assisted The Nature Conservancy and Region A personnel with invasive Brown Knapweed removal in the Kennebunk Plains Wildlife Management Area. Brown Knapweed is a European plant that has been accidentally introduced in the vicinity of Kennebunk Plains, a unique area that needs protection from Knapweed.
- Mays also reports on two projects:
 - Worked with York Land Trust on a habitat enhancement and management plan for rare turtles on a parcel in the Mt. Agamenticus area of York County. In addition to land acquisition and conservation easement., YLT hopes to restore damaged turtle wetlands on the property and create an artificial nest site in hopes of keeping rare turtles from crossing a nearby road.
 - Conducted a two-day rapid population assessment of a 10km stretch of river in western Maine which hosts the state's only known population of the globally rare Cobblestone Tiger Beetle. Seven sites were surveyed and 66 CT beetles were observed.

FISHERIES DIVISION

It's All About Trout:

- DIF&W biologists are working in Baxter State Park this week surveying wild brook trout and charr populations. In a cooperative effort with Baxter State Park, the survey results will be used to put an updated resource management plan in place.
- The Sebago Lake Focus Group met Thursday, Aug. 4 to continue its discussions on angling in Sebago and getting past and present management plans in alignment. DIF&W staff, including Commissioner Woodcock, attended the meeting.
- DIF&W's Wild Brook Trout Committee met also on Thursday, Aug. 4 at DIF&W Headquarters in Augusta to discuss ongoing efforts to protect our wild trout resources and to develop more quality trout fisheries in Maine.
- The remote pond surveys being conducted as a partnership between Trout Unlimited, Maine Audubon and DIF&W continue – surveying wild brook ponds using a great group of volunteers.

Salmon and Trout:

- Jason Seiders reports, "We recently completed some boat electrofishing on the Kennebec River, below Wyman Dam in Bingham and below Williams Dam in Solon. We found decent numbers of salmon and rainbow trout in Bingham, with the rainbows looking very robust. Our electrofishing in Solon was very successful with good numbers of salmon and brown trout. We saw brown trout up to 18 inches (and in very good condition), and we missed a large landlocked salmon that we estimated at roughly 20-24 inches. Incredible insect hatches at both locations."

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

- The Maine Warden Service has completed an extensive and in-depth testing and interview process at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to narrow the field of more than 50 applicants for seven positions.

Those seven new wardens have been selected and will begin an 18-week training program at MCJA on Aug. 15. Then, the new wardens will undertake 12 weeks of Advanced Warden School.

The Maine Warden Service currently has 123 fulltime sworn law enforcement positions when at full

complement. This represents a significant reduction in force from the early 1970's. During that time, Maine's sportsmen did not have nearly as much opportunity as they do today, such as moose hunting, turkey hunting and year around fishing. Add to that snowmobile, watercraft and ATV enforcement as well as search and rescue responsibilities and we are challenged daily to meet the expectations and response the public we serve demands, stated Col. Joel Wilkinson.

"We have a fantastic list of candidates to pick from and I am pleased with the fact that I have far more capable and strong candidates than I have positions. I measure where we are as an organization by the quality of our candidates that want to work for us. Things look good and the future of the organization is in the selections we make this week."



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

- A **new compilation of all the licenses, permits and registrations** made available through DIF&W is now on our website. One list has all 233 in **alphabetical order** and the other list has them **divided by division**. It's quite a lengthy list!

The Department's five divisions are: Commissioner's Office; Division of Resource Management, which includes Fisheries, Wildlife, Hatcheries, Beginning with Habitat and Real Estate Departments; Licensing; the Maine Warden Service; and Information & Education, which includes the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray and Swan Island in Richmond.

- We are proud of our two Facebook pages...and now have a third! Here are the links to all 3:

1. **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife** 7,862 friends
2. **Maine Wildlife Park** 4,125 friends
3. **Maine Sporting Heritage 1870-1970** More than 6,000 visitors



Since it went live last Friday, more than 6,000 people have visited the outdoor history Facebook site, with 306 now active users. Maine's outdoor heritage is so deep and so rich, we hope this page will demonstrate just how interesting and important our outdoor traditions are to Maine's residents, especially its sporting community.

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Commissioner Woodcock assists the fishing efforts of the YMCA Camp kids during a tour of the camp Thursday on Cobbossee Lake in Winthrop. (Edie Smith photo)



I&E Director Edie Smith snapped this photo while out in the field assisting the Maine Warden Service. "Such a great example of Maine's summer in the outdoors – these 3 retrievers were so excited about going for a boat ride – they just needed their pfd's!"



(From right, in red shirts) Colonel Joel Wilkinson, Corporal Aaron Cross and Warden Kris MacCabe competed as a team in the 21st Annual NH State Police DARE Classic 5K at New Hampshire Motor Speedway last Wednesday. Their total time put the Maine Warden Service in first place as the top Law Enforcement team – upsetting last year's champion, the New Hampshire State Police.

(Emily MacCabe photo)

DO YOU KNOW?

Fact of the Week, from the educational signs at the Maine Wildlife Park:

Question: How is the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife funded?

Answer: The sale of hunting & fishing licenses & permits; boat, snowmobile & ATV registrations; fines for misuse of all of the above; federal aid dollars from taxes on hunting, fishing boating and other recreational equipment; and less than one percent of your state tax dollar. [Visit the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray!](#)

