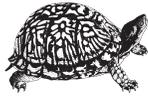




Weekly Report

www.mefishwildlife.com

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



Thursday, May 17, 2012

In Memory of Samantha Davis-Gay... 1979-2012



The joy of a nice weekend in Maine was shattered last weekend by the news that we had lost one of our own. Samantha Gay was one of the most fun loving individuals you'd ever want to meet, and in the end she died while doing something she loved dearly - mudding. That part of her life has been relived by those who knew her best, but it's her life here at MDIFW that we focus on.

Sam came to work for us almost a year ago, and you just knew she loved working here - it was in her blood. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife was a dream job for Sam, and you could tell because of the way she dealt with customers. Hers was a calm and reasonable voice, and she never had a customer go away angry.

Sam loved everything about MDIFW. She got to go on a visit to a bear's den back in winter - and that was a dream come true too. She wanted to know everything about them - and cuddled them like they were hers.

But she did more than that - a short time ago she spent the day job shadowing with Hatcheries - learning how that section operates. Last Wednesday she spent the morning going through volunteer training to become a Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs instructor. She couldn't wait to get the training so she could teach young people how much fun it was to just be out there. And given just a little more time she probably would have designed her own camo pattern.

Sam was genuine, and naive, and positive, and never complained, and was the ray of sunshine in an office where she loved to work. To her family, and to Skip's family - thanks for sharing her with us. She was a joy to be around, and she will be missed by all whom she touched.



Fallen Officers Memorial

Attorney General William Schneider is the keynote speaker at this year's annual ceremony at the Maine Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

The ceremony, on May 17, pays tribute to the 83 officers who have died in the line of duty in Maine since 1808.

The Maine Warden Service has 15 wardens honored on the memorial, the most names of any law enforcement agency. Maine State Police have 10 names.



INFORMATION CENTER

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

- 1,135 Phone calls
- 545 Emails
- 84 Walk-ins



Missed an issue?

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

KID'S SECTION



This is 10 year old Rebeclyn Parker of Dexter with her first turkey. Shot 5/1/12, 16lb Jake, 4 1/4 inch beard.



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

Swan Island
Maine Wildlife Park

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE

PROSPECT, MAINE – MAY 10, 2012: Eight-year-old Adam Bennoch was located at 1:30 AM this morning in a remote area of Prospect after being separated from his father during a fishing trip yesterday afternoon. The Maine Warden Service was notified by Waldo County Sheriff's office of the missing 8 year old at 7:30 PM last night. Adam Bennoch was fishing with his father Jeremy Bennoch, both from Bucksport Maine, when they became separated from each other while fishing.

Their vehicle was parked at the intersection of Route 1A and Hawes Stream. They fished south of route 1A for some time and then headed onto the north side following Hawes Stream to the west. Later in the evening the two became separated. The father immediately began searching and could not find his son, so he notified his wife. Both the Waldo County Sheriff's office and the Maine Warden Service were notified. The Maine Warden Service called out Maine Search and Rescue (MASAR) volunteers as well as Maine Search and Rescue Dogs (MESARD). Game wardens utilized canoes to search the stream and fire department members searched along the stream bank on foot.

At about 1:30 AM, MESARD K-9 team Leslie Howe and her Dutch Sheppard Eron, found Adam on the south side of Hawes Stream in a very remote area. The K-9 team was on the north side of the river and kept in voice contact with him until wardens and Prospect firefighters arrived to transport him out of the woods. Adam was looked at by medical personnel and was reunited with his family.

Game Warden Lieutenant Kevin Adam stated that "fortunately the weather, although wet, brought temperatures that were mild. In addition, the quick response by MASAR volunteers, local game wardens, and local fire department members, along with the ability to deploy them into remote areas accurately with GPS units made for a quick rescue of Adam Bennoch." Maine Warden Service would like to thank the Prospect Fire Department and the Waldo County Sheriffs Office for their assistance.



On April 28, 2012 the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office will hold its Fourth Annual "5K Fugitive Run" in Gorham, Maine. This 3.1 mile course travels through the Gorham Village area, starting and finishing between the Gorham High School and Gorham Municipal Center. The goal of this race is to promote community involvement and interaction, as well as raising money for a local charitable organization.

The event provides many of the amenities found at other large road races and attracted both runners and walkers alike. The race holds a strong public safety participation, with the presentation of the "Sheriff's Cup" to the public safety agency (police, fire/rescue, corrections, prosecutors) with the best cumulative finishing times (minimum of 3 runners to qualify for trophy).

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Friday, May 11th the Commissioner attended an event to honor the Friends of Scarborough Marsh. Awards were presented to the founding members including retired Wildlife Biologist Phil Bozenhard.

WILDLIFE DIVISION



Shown here are Amy Meehan, IFW Biologist, Chris Martin, New Hampshire Audubon, Judy Camuso, IFW Biologist, and Patrick Keenan from the Biodiversity Research Institute.

On May 17th biologists from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and staff from the New Hampshire Audubon and Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) came together on a joint project.

They worked together to band 3 peregrine falcon chicks on the Casco Bay bridge Thursday. A banded fledgling from the Casco Bay bridge a few years ago is now known to be nesting on an industrial structure in Westbrook.

The three chicks seen here are also the subject of a webcam on BRI's website. They have quite a fan following [Click here](#) to see for yourself!



RETIREMENT

Dave Basley, Regional Fisheries Biologist in Ashland, retired on April 30 after a distinguished 35-year career with the Fisheries Division. He spent 33 of those years in the Fish River Lakes Region, where he served as Peter Bourque's Assistant Regional Biologist before being promoted to Regional Biologist in 1983.

Dave's long career in Ashland was focused on wild brook trout and lake whitefish management, and his contributions in both areas were outstanding and enduring. He initiated several ground-breaking studies related to wild trout that remain pertinent today, including a major assessment of trout movements and habitat use in the lower Aroostook River, and a comprehensive evaluation of trout population size and angler exploitation on the large lakes in the Allagash Waterway. Dave employed one of the Fisheries Division's most active and comprehensive data collection programs to evaluate and track changes in the Region's salmonid resources and how anglers utilized them. He became a leader in advocating for more restrictive trout regulations long before it became "popular" to do so!

Dave also served as the agency's Principal Investigator for lake whitefish, a popular and high-value resource that is largely restricted to northern Maine lakes. He identified a long-term decline of several whitefish populations in the Region, then advocated for more restrictive harvest rules and initiated a unique hatchery program to facilitate recovery by using wild brood stock captured in the affected drainages.

Dave offered these reflections to the staff he leaves behind, including many current biologists that he trained and mentored: "I have had the pleasure to work with the Division's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation biologists. We accomplished good work and had a great time doing it. Although the landscape has changed, the equipment has changed, and the hot issues come and go, the one constant is that we are the ones ultimately responsible to manage and protect the inland fisheries resource for the citizens of the state of Maine. With this responsibility comes the expectation that we will do this in a professional manner based on good science".

Dave plans to remain in Ashland during his retirement years with his wife Lisa. He'll pursue some new work opportunities, but he plans to reserve some time for wandering about in the North Woods!



BIRDERS WANTED!

The peregrine falcons got their green bands this week, get yours too!



FISHERIES & HATCHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Division Staff Attends Annual St. John River Advisory Committee Meeting - *Written by Frank Frost*

Fisheries Biologists Dave Boucher and Frank Frost along with retired Fisheries Director Peter Bourque attended this year's meeting held at Pelletier Logging Camps May 7-9 near Baker Lake in northwestern Maine. The St. John River Advisory Committee consists of landowners and State agencies that own or manage land in the River corridor and those who manage or regulate resource activities there. Each year the group meets for nearly three days to view a section of the river, discuss land and water activities, present river use trends, and conduct a business meeting. The committee is alternately chaired by representatives from State agencies and landowners; Frank Frost, IF&W, will replace Bill Patterson, The Nature Conservancy, as chair of the committee. The gathering allows for interaction among a diverse group of landowners and State agencies interested in managing a significant river resource in one of the most remote areas of the Maine woods. On May 8th the group canoed from Baker Lake to Sunset Bridge on the St. Juste Road, an approximately 21-mile stretch that has six North Maine Woods campsites. Longtime committee members Al Copperthwaite and Bill Sylvester provided colorful and in-depth histories of the area as we stopped at each campsite. It was clear from viewing this stretch of the river that the Upper St. John provides a remote, wilderness-like canoeing and angling experience with rustic campsites for users.

The Upper St. John River historically provided an excellent wild brook trout sport fishery, although angling is limited to early and late seasons due to wide fluctuations in water flows and high temperatures. Like so many areas of Maine, these traditional fisheries for native species have been impacted, and sometimes replaced, by invasive species. Muskellunge and smallmouth bass are two fishes now established in the St. John River after emigrating here from waters in Canada. "Muskie" are frequently targeted now by anglers in the "deadwaters" of the St. John; smallmouth bass are well established further downstream but have been reported as far upstream as the outlet of Baker Lake. As these two predatory fish become more established in the St. John River, IF&W will be monitoring the effects on native fishes and the sport fisheries they provide.

Brian Boucher represented Orion Timberlands at the annual St. John River Advisory Committee meeting in 2012 and caught four "muskies" in the deadwater near Flaws Bogan.



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