

HBMI Natural Resources Department



88 Bell Road
Littleton, ME 04730

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Toqraqiw (It is Autumn)

Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief

Susan Young - Editor

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HBMI Natural Resources Department



Skitkomiq Nutacomit
Earth Speaker

NAFWS Northeast Regional Conference



In September 2004, the HBMI Natural Resources Department hosted the Northeast Regional Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Conference (NAFWS).



Ron Skates, President NAFWS offering opening address to conference attendees

People from all over the country came to the County to meet, share ideas and information regarding our natural world. We had representatives from the National NAFWS office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Department of the Interior (DOI), US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Geological Survey (USGS), American Chestnut Foundation, University of Maine, Orono (UMO), Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (ME DIF&W) US EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well as Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, MicMac and Narragansett tribes.

The conference opened with tribal member Imelda Perley performing a traditional opening ceremony, followed by addresses by Tribal Council Member Clair Sabattis, Tim Gould, NE Regional Director NAFWS and Ron Skates, the National President NAFWS.

Agenda topics covered a wide range of subjects over the course of the three day conference (see agenda next page).

We conducted natural trail and tribal land tours, hosted a traditional feast along the banks of the Meduxnekeag River complete with moose salmon, frybread and fiddleheads. A group of elders opened the feast with a prayer in Maliseet.

Traditional drumming was provided by Negootkook Drummers and Chanters from Tobique First Nation. The conference concluded with an awards banquet held at the Meduxnekeag Ramblers Snowmobile club.



Balsam Fir Tipping and Christmas tree Permits

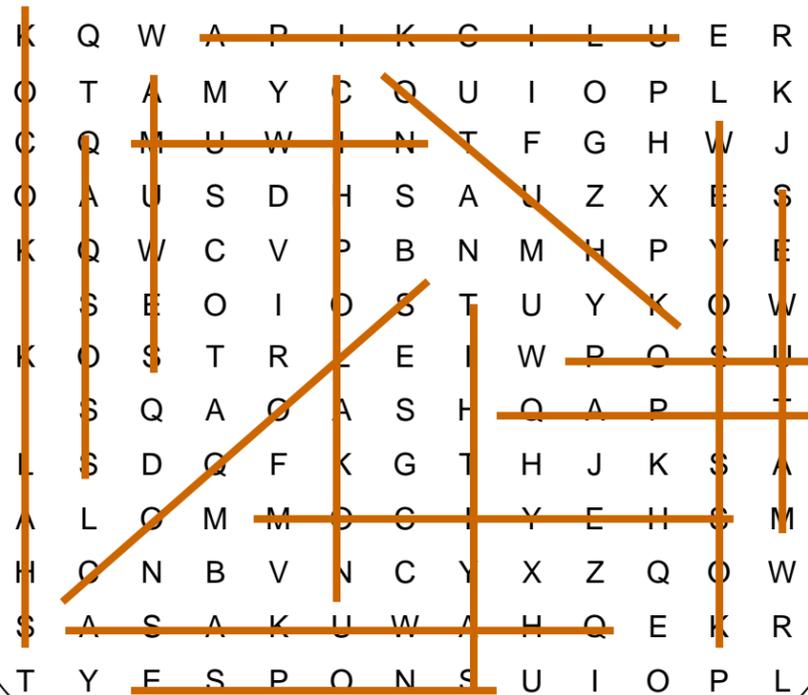
As the holidays approach, I would like to remind the community that permits are required for the harvest of fir tips and Christmas trees.



It is illegal to harvest and transport tips or trees without a permit. Permits are free to tribal members and are available through the Forestry Program at the Administration Building during regular office hours.

If you have any questions or would like to request a permit, please contact David Lombard, Environmental Protection/Forestry Specialist at 532-4273 ext. 220.

Animal Word Search Answers



TELEPHONE LISTING

(207) 532-4273

1-800-564-8524 (ME)

1-800-545-8524

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Sharri Venno - ext. 215

FORESTRY

David Lombard - ext 220

REAL ESTATE

Tony Tomah - ext 221

WATER RESOURCES

Dave Joseph - ext 216

Cara Ellis - ext 212

Ryan Greenlaw - ext 212

ADMIN. ASST.

Sue Young - ext 202

The Conference in Pictures - Chronic Wasting Disease - Tissue Collection Session



Jim Pardilla PIN and Corey Lucero NAFWS



Emerson Bull Chief - NAFWS



John Banks PIN, Greg Soder Narragansett, Corey Lucero NAFWS, Jim Pardilla, PIN, Tony Tomah HBMI (rear)



Jim Pardilla - Penobscot Game Warden



Jeff Day Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head - Aquinnah and Emerson Bull Chief - NAFWS



John Sewell, Passamaquoddy Tribe and Emerson Bull Chief - NAFWS



NAFWS Conservation Officer Shoot

Each year at the regional NAFWS conference, conservation officers participate in a variety of trainings and test their shooting skills against one another. Phil Quint and the Lead Department constructed a lead safe shooting range on tribal lands where this year's competition took place. The top 5 shooters in each region qualify to compete at the national NAFWS conservation officer shoot. We are pleased to announce that our Tribal Police Chief, John Deveau will be representing the Houlton Band of Maliseets at the national level.

This year's regional team will be made up of:

- Josh Loring - Penobscot Warden Service
- Jeff Day - Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head
- John Deveau - HBMI Tribal Police
- Jim Pardilla - Penobscot Warden Service
- Tim Gould - Penobscot Warden Service



Top Gun Award Winner Josh Loring



Range signs



Photo 1 =>
4 ↓



Photo 2 =>
3 ↓



Clockwise

- 1: Bob Garabedian US FWS & Jim Burton EPA unroll targets
- 2: John Deveau, HBMI (l) gives lead sample to Jim Burton after shooting
3. Shooters discuss targets (l to r) Rangemaster, Jim Pardilla & Tim Gould, Penobscot Warden Service, Jeff Day - Wampanoag Tribe at Gay Head, John Deveau HBMI
4. (l to r) Rangemaster, John Deveau HBMI, Tim Gould, Penobscot Warden Service



Shoot photos courtesy of Phil Quint - HBMI Lead Department

What Are We Eating? (revisited)

A year has gone by since we first asked you to be on the look out for an invitation to participate in a "dietary assessment" survey. Well as you know it didn't happen, but not because we gave up! We're back on track to conduct a survey that will help us estimate the amounts of fish, game and seafood our tribal households eat in an average year. From this information we can develop educational and outreach materials that will help us safely preserve and/or enhance our traditional hunting and gathering practices. This winter, if you live in Aroostook County, you will receive a phone call from David Joseph or Ryan Greenlaw (both Maliseet hunters, fishermen and game cooks themselves) asking if you would be willing to set up an appointment for a face-to-face interview. We especially need to talk to the primary cook of the household and the primary person in the household who hunts or fishes for food. If you live outside Aroostook County, your household will receive a survey in the mail. If you have any questions once you receive the survey, you can call David or Ryan at the Band's toll-free number 1-800-564-8524 ext. 216, or ext. 212, (Maine) or 1-800-545-8524 and they will help you fill out the survey.



Each household that participates in this survey will receive a mercury-free household thermometer as a thank you gift.

Please be assured that **any** personal identification information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Your responses to the questions will be combined with those of others so that your individual answers can not be identified. Once the survey is complete, we will compile a report that summarizes the results. A copy of this report will be sent to all Tribal households.

Thanks in advance for your help.



Animals Word Search

Look for the animal names in Maliseet

K Q W A P I K C I L U E R
 O T A M Y C O U I O P L K
 C Q M U W I N T F G H W J
 O A U S D H S A U Z X E S
 K Q W C V P B N M H P Y E
 I S E O I O S T U Y K O W
 K O S T R L E I W P O S U
 I S Q A O A S H Q A P I T
 L S D Q F K G T H J K S A
 A L O M M O C I Y E H S M
 H C N B V N C Y X Z Q O W
 S A S A K U W A H Q E K R
 T Y E S P O N S U I O P L

Maliseet Word List

- Amuwes** - Bee
- Apikcilu** - skunk
- Asakuwahq** - Chipmunk
- Cihpolakon** - Eagle
- Coqols** - Frog
- Espons** - Raccoon
- Kocokikilahs** - Chickadee
- Matuwes** - Porcupine
- Mociyehs** - Partridge
- Mus** - Moose
- Muwin** - Bear
- Otuhk** - Deer
- Posu** - Bobcat
- Qapit** - Beaver
- Qaqsoos** - Fox
- Tihtiyas** - Blue Jay
- Weyossisok** - Animals



Banquet attendees - left to right - front row - Josh Loring, Harry Allen, Sharri Venno, Angie Reed, Brenda Commander, Joey Tomah, (2nd row) Andy Raddant, John Banks, Cara Ellis, Jan Paul, Linda Raymond, Sue Wright, David Lombard, Dave Joseph, Ryan Greenlaw, (3rd Row) David Costas, Greg Soder, Tim Gould, Ron Skates, Tony Tomah, DJ Monette, Justin Kobylarz



Conference Agenda

- Penobscot River Restoration Project - Clem Fay, Gordon Russell, John Banks - Penobscot Indian Nation
- Sediment Study of the Meduxnekeag River - Charles Schalk - USGS
- Bacterial Source Tracking in the Meduxnekeag - Charlie Culbertson - USGS
- Fish Habitat Assessment in the Meduxnekeag River - Frank Frost, ME DIF&W
- Fish Habitat Restoration in Western Maine - Forrest Bonney - ME DIF&W
- American Chestnut Restoration in the Northeast - Glen Rea, American Chestnut Foundation
- Passamaquoddy Carnivore Population Survey - John Sewell, Passamaquoddy, Indian Township
- Partners for Amphibian & Reptile Conservation (PARC) Eric Raffini
- Wampanoag's Lime Disease Control Program - Jeff Day - Wampanoag Tribe at Gay Head Aquinnah
- Chronic Wasting Disease Program - Emerson Bull Chief & Corey Lucero - NAFWS
- Narragansett West Nile Virus Monitoring Program - Greg Soder, Narragansett Tribe
- Human Conflicts with Animals: Bear, Beaver, Cormorants - Monte Chandler - USDA APHIS
- introduction to in Situ Burning as a response option for spilled petroleum products and the alternatives in or affecting Indian Waters - Andrew Raddant, DOI
- Introduction to Dispersants as a response to oil spills in shallow waters and the alternative - Ken Bailey - BIA
- Discussion of current Regional Implementation plan for USFWS Indian Policy - led by DJ Monette - US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Regional Response Team Incident training - Andrew Raddant DOI, Harry Allen EPA, Molly Sperduto, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Alex Sherrin, EPA, etc.

The Conference in Pictures



NAFWS President - Ron Skates and NE Regional Director Tim Gould



Left to right - Josh Loring, Tim Gould, Angie Reed - Penobscot Indian Nation, standing, Ron Skates NAFWS



Andrew Raddant - Department of the Interior (DOI)



Council Member Clair Sabbattis and Tribal Chief Brenda Commander enjoying the banquet



Nick Paul and son dancing at traditional feast along the river



Presentation by Charlie Culbertson, US Geological Survey (USGS)



Negootcook Drummers and Chanters - Tobique First Nation perform at the traditional feast



DJ Monette - US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)



(left to right) Tribal Council members Justin Kobylarz, Sue Wright and Linda Raymond enjoying the banquet

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Grant

This summer, work began on the Tribal Wildlife Grant awarded to the Tribe by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. With the assistance of summer technicians Joey Tomah and Phil Quint Jr., the Environmental Protection Program surveyed the Pond Parcel for wildlife trees (snags) and installed numerous nest boxes for cavity nesting birds.

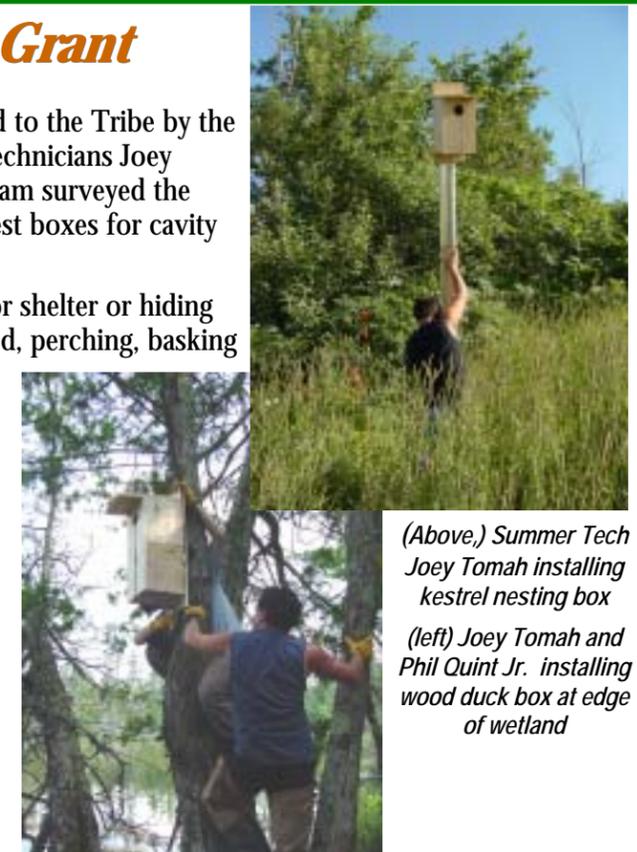
Snags are used by a variety of wildlife species. They are used for shelter or hiding cover, for den, nest and foraging sites, as well as for storing food, perching, basking and preening. Many species that use snags are insect eaters thereby helping to reduce harmful insect populations. The summer crew surveyed wooded sections of the pond parcel and found few large diameter, standing dead/dying trees or snags. As a result, the crew created numerous snags of various types of trees, including basswood, sugar maple, yellow birch, hemlock and cedar, throughout the forest by girdling selected large diameter trees. Girdling is done using chainsaws and axes to remove a section of bark and inner layers of wood around the entire tree. Removing the bark and inner layers of wood breaks the connection between the roots and the crown, preventing the flow of water to the leaves and the food to the roots. Girdled trees will take a couple years to fully die, however, they should remain persistent in the forest and provide wildlife benefits for many years to come.



(Clockwise) Eastern Bluebird, Wood Duck, Kestrel

In addition to creating snags, the summer crew also installed nest boxes. Approximately 60 wood duck boxes were installed along the Meduxnekeag River, around the southern edge of the pond and in the small beaver flowage near the Administration Building on Bell Road. These boxes provide nest sites for wood ducks, common goldeneyes and hooded mergansers during the spring months. Other species that like cavities will also use these boxes. I have even found flying squirrels using them. An additional 56 bluebird next boxes were installed in various areas around tribal lands. Bluebird populations have been declining due to competition from house sparrows and European starlings (2 non-native species). Bluebirds help reduce insect populations since two-thirds of their diet is made up of insects. Finally, the crew installed 10 American kestrel nest boxes. Kestrels (a/k/a sparrow hawks) are our smallest and most social hawk and are the only ones to nest in cavities. They are valuable for controlling rodent and insect populations. As with all these species, populations are limited by a lack of nesting cavities and in the case of bluebirds and kestrels, the use of pesticides like DDT. It is our hope that through the installation of these nesting boxes and future management practices that these populations will remain stable or increase on tribal lands.

Future components of the wildlife grant include creating additional snags in other locations on tribal lands, planting chestnut trees and releasing apple trees from surrounding competition. Also, we will monitor the success of our nest boxes during annual maintenance.



(Above,) Summer Tech Joey Tomah installing kestrel nesting box (left) Joey Tomah and Phil Quint Jr. installing wood duck box at edge of wetland