

HBMI Natural Resources Department

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Nipon (It is Summer)
 June 2006

Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief
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HBMI Natural Resources Department



Maine Rabies Management Program

*By Libby Kemp, Rabies Biologist,
 USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 (APHIS) Wildlife Services*

Rabies Background

Rabies is one of the oldest recorded diseases; yet today it remains a significant management challenge for public health officials. Over the past 30 years, rabies management has grown in complexity in the United States as a result of wild animals replacing domestic dogs as the primary reservoir for the disease. Addressing this significant public health problem requires expertise from a variety of sources, including public health, wildlife, and agriculture agencies.

into an open wound, eyes, nose, or mouth. Fortunately, there is a safe, effective, post-exposure treatment for rabies. However, left untreated, rabies is fatal.



Protect Yourself From Rabies

- Do not touch or pick up wild animals or stray domestic animals.
- Properly vaccinate all family pets against rabies.
- Report strangely acting animals to your local animal control officer or, if the animal is wild, to State wildlife officials.
- Remove trash and secure garbage cans. Do not leave pet food outside.
- Keep family pets indoors at night. During the day, do not let them roam.

If You Are Bitten

- Wash the bite with soap and water for 5 minutes.
- Try to capture the animal only if you can do it without receiving additional bites.
- Immediately report the bite to your doctor and your local health officer.

Continued on page 4



Skicinuwatwateneh!

Let's Speak Maliseet! The University of Maine at Presque Isle, (UMPI) through their Houlton Center will be offering a 3 credit course this fall entitled Maliseet Language and Culture II. This course will be taught by HBMI tribal member and linguist Imelda Perley on Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45am.

UMPI has been supportive of the Maliseet community by offering Maliseet classes at their Houlton Center, Introduction to Maliseet Language and Culture and Wabanaki World Views.

If you'd like more information about these courses, please contact the Houlton UMPI Center at 532-3100 or Brian Reynolds in our Education Department, 532-4273 ext. 210

Apc oc!

Word Search Answers

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

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National NAFWS Conference

This May, the Penobscot Indian Nation hosted the annual National Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) Conference in Bar Harbor, Maine.

This year's conference was attended by over 40 tribes and many state and federal agencies. It was a great opportunity for the HBMI Natural Resources Department to meet new contacts and re-establish working relationships.

One morning Cara Ellis and Sue Young attended a sunrise service on Cadillac Mountain led by Penobscot Elder, Arnie Neptune. It was a cold and windy morning but it was well attended despite the very early hour. The sun made a brief, spectacular appearance before returning to the clouds to start the day.

Workshops at the conference were varied and covered a wide variety of topics. Subjects such as Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration, Integrated Resource Management Planning, Introduction to Fish Health, Development of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan, NAFWS and USDA APHIS Chronic Wasting Disease Update, Habitat Restoration Techniques, Avian Influenza Update and Overview, Tularemia on Martha's Vineyard, Funding Opportunities for Habitat Conservation, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Assessing the Damage to Tribal Resources, GIS/GPS Training, National Conservation Leadership Institute Presentation Regarding Tribal Participation, Penobscot River Restoration Project, Wampanoag Bay Scallop Restoration

Project, Conservation of Freshwater Mussels and Water Quality, Stewards of our Tribal Fisheries, National Fish Habitat Action Plan, Brown Ash Panel and Presentation, US Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Grant Program Liaison Update were included in this 3 day event. While the workshops were going on, tribal police, game wardens and conservation officers took part in the National Shoot Competition, and trainings including Night Hunting Enforcement Techniques, Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation and Tribal partnerships and the History of the Maine Warden Service.

In addition to the daily workshops and activities, the Penobscot Nation Hosted a traditional feast on Indian Island and the Society held it's annual fun-filled banquet and auction. Many one of a kind items were up for raffle and auction. A one of a kind women's Hudson's Bay reversible coat and an Old Town Penobscot canoe were raffled. Auction items included everything from jewelry, baskets to guided turkey hunting trips in South Dakota.

Prior to announcing the winner of a raffle held to support the NAFWS Environmental Youth Practicum, Sally Carufel-Williams, coordinator of the practicum, took a moment to single out Water Resources Tech Ryan Greenlaw, a practicum attendee. Sally mentioned how proud she was that Ryan had attended the youth practicum and has now returned to work in the tribe's natural resources department.

For more information about NAFWS check out their website www.nafws.org

Participating Tribes

- Penobscot Indian Nation ♦ Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa ♦ Aroostook Band of Micicmacs ♦ Bay Mills Indian Commission ♦ Chickaloon Nation ♦ Chippewa Cree ♦ Colville Tribes ♦ Confederated Salish and Kootenai Council Athabasca ♦ Crow Tribe ♦ Natural Resources Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation ♦ Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians ♦ Jicarilla ♦ Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians ♦ Little River Band of Odawa Indians ♦ Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa ♦ Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin ♦ Mohegan Tribe ♦ Narragansett Indian Tribe ♦ Native Village at Eyak ♦ Navajo Fish & Wildlife Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho ♦ Oglala Sioux ♦ Oneida Indian Nation ♦ Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin ♦ Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe ♦ Poarch Band of Creek Indians ♦ Pueblo of Tesuque ♦ Quileute Tribe Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Commission ♦ Sauk-Suiattle Tribe ♦ Santa Clara Pueblo ♦ Seminole Tribe of Florida ♦ Shoshone ♦ Southern Ute Indian Tribe ♦ Spokane Tribe ♦ Squaxin ♦ St. Regis Mohawk ♦ Standing Rock Game Fish & Parks ♦ Sqninomish Fish & Wildlife Commission ♦ Thre Affiliated Tribes Fish & Wildlife ♦ Tuscarora United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota ♦ Ute Tribe ♦ Walker River Paiute ♦ Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah ♦ Wyandotte Nation ♦ Yakama Nation ♦ Yankton Sioux ♦ Tribe Anishnabe ♦ Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina



Wild Babies

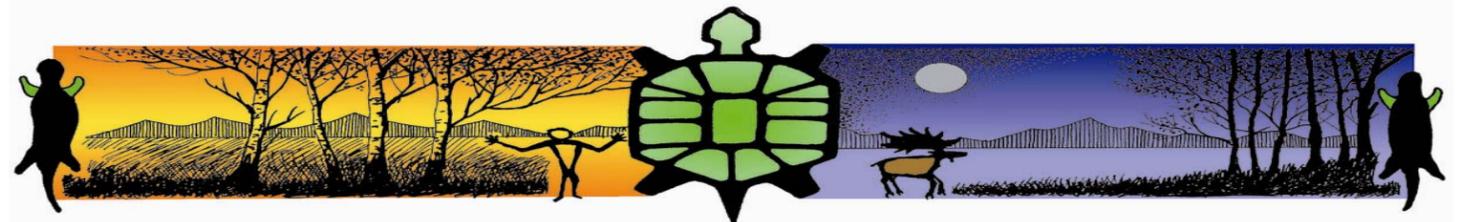
This time of year the woods and fields are full of new life. Trees and flowers are in full bloom and many birds and animals are welcoming their young.

Young moose and deer are testing their wobbly legs, baby ducks are taking their first swim. Many young animals have no smell of their own and are sometimes stashed in a safe place while their parents go off to feed.

Unfortunately, many times, well intentioned people find the young and assume they have been abandoned by their parents. They take the young home to try and raise them. Wildlife rehabilitators are often bombarded with these young as it quickly becomes apparent that they cannot care for these animals.

If you come across a young animal alone in the woods, **please leave it there**. There is a very good chance that the parent is nearby. If you still think the animal has been abandoned, do not disturb it, go away and come back in a few hours. If the baby is still there and there are no sign of the parents, telephone a local game warden or wildlife rehabilitator. They are trained to assess and handle the situation for the safety and well-being of the animal. In Maine, as in many other states, it is illegal to possess wild animals without the proper licenses and permits.

Please see the attached brochure for more information.



Maliseet Word Search Puzzle

Find the Maliseet and English words in the puzzle

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Apple | Cikon | Q C W S A P P L E E E S P O N S K C |
| Caterpillar | Atpahqonikehs | R A S U F R O G T O M A W E Y T I O |
| Flower | Pehsuwahsuwehsok | G L U N D E R W A T E R F Y L G S G |
| Frog | Cogols | O I F S O P C L S K J H O G M A H L |
| Goose | Waptoq | S K I E F D C S U A Z X W C P S S S |
| Grasshopper | Cals | E O S E F R O G M V B N E O E S M N |
| No-see-um | Sipunis | B N H U V T O B A C C O R S Q H C S |
| Osprey | Isomeqehs | X O Z M A S N D C F G W A P T O Q I |
| Porcupine | Matuwehs | H S O L A N I M U S H J K R I P L P |
| Raccoon | Espons | P S O I U P O R C U P I N E Y P T U |
| Sumac | Solanimus | I S O M E Q E H S A S D F Y G E H N |
| Sun | Kisuhs | M A T U W E H S J H C I K O N R H I |
| Sunfish | Sikonoss | A T P A H Q O N I K E H S S P O J S |
| Tobacco | Tomawey | P E H S U W A H S U W E H S O K N J |
| Underwater | Lampeq | |



Fish for Good Health

Now that summer is here and there is fresh fish all around, it's a good time to remember how good fish is for you.

Fish is a great source of Omega 3 oils, also known as "brain food" for babies in the womb and for babies that are nursing. Omega 3 oils also work to protect adults from heart attacks. In addition to the Omega 3 oils, fish are a good source of iron, protein and zinc while being naturally low in saturated fat.

While very good for you, too much fish can cause some health problems thanks to the mercury and other toxins that accumulate in their flesh as a result of human activities. Women who are pregnant, nursing or chil-

dren under the age of 8 need to pay particular attention to the amount and kind of fish they eat. These people should avoid Swordfish, shark, king mackerel and tilefish due to their very high mercury levels. These fish tend to live many years and therefore, tend to accumulate more mercury. Adults and children over the age of 8 can eat up to 2 meals per month of these fish.

For more detailed fish consumption guidelines along with information regarding buying, cooking and storing fish, please refer to the enclosed brochure from the Maine CDC (formerly the Maine Bureau of Health). Although these guidelines are set for the state of Maine, this brochure contains useful information for wherever you live.

Don't Let This Happen To You!

Recently a local landowner had to pay for this ad to be run in the local newspaper as part of their penalty for not having the proper permits before working on their property.

Sometimes your project may seem not big enough to be worth all the hassle of getting a permit before you start, but making a simple telephone call can save you a world of trouble not to mention some cold hard cash. Take the time to get all the proper permits before beginning any project on your property. Aside from protecting yourself from financial penalties you'll be doing your part to protect the environment.☺

Attention: Landowners, Contractors, Town Officials

You've checked into the need for town permits, BUT, have you checked with the DEP?

Even if a permit from the town has been issued for your project, a DEP permit is usually required before beginning activities located within 75 feet of protected natural resources such as brooks, streams, lakes, rivers, ponds and wetlands. Activities conducted without a DEP permit where one is required may be subject to severe penalties. Some activities needing a DEP permit if located within 75 feet of a natural resource are:

- Soil disturbance or grading
- Filling (including sand, stone, loam, gravel, stumps, building debris, trash, etc.)
- Beach construction or adding sand to a beach
- Dredging
- Draining water from a natural resource
- Bridge or culvert installations
- Constructing permanent structures, such as docks, wharves and piers
- Shoreline alterations, such as constructing or repairing retaining walls, placing riprap, etc.

A project built without the necessary DEP permit can result in expensive and time consuming court action, with site restoration and penalties of at least \$100 per day required. Both landowners and their contractors are subject to enforcement actions.

A phone call can make the difference between a well-planned and well-constructed project, or an expensive mistake with possible damaging impacts to the State's natural resources.

Can you really afford not to check with the DEP before starting your project?

For more information, or for a permit application, call your nearest DEP office at the following locations and ask to speak with staff from the Land Resource Division.

- Augusta: tel. 287-7688 or 1-800-452-1942
- Portland: tel. 822-6300 or 1-888-769-1036
- Bangor: tel. 941-4570 or 1-888-769-1137
- Presque Isle: tel. 764-0477 or 1-888-769-1053



Celebrate the Meduxnekeag

Water, where would we be without water? And boy was there water on Saturday on June 3 but rain did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of those who attended.

Sponsored by the Organization for Watershed Living (OWL) and the Meduxnekeag Watershed Coalition (of which the tribe is a member) the day was chock full of events. The day began with a sunrise service led by Maliseet Elder Ervine Polchies, on the new Gateway Crossing Bridge in Houlton. Volunteers then spread out to pick up trash along the banks of the river. There were also a number of pollution prevention activities and an informational session held at Cary Library.

People were also asked to join Angie Reed, former HBMI Water Resources Specialist, at the Highland Avenue Boat



looking for aquatic insects with Angie Reed

Launch to take a closer look at the insects that live in the river. The presence or absence of certain insects is one of the things we use to help indicate the quality of the water in the river. Cara Ellis and the Water Resources team, Ryan Greenlaw, Danielle Howe and Justin Kobylarz were also on hand to present information about the importance of culverts in the watershed and looked for volunteers to help survey the many culverts in the area.

One of the goals of this event was to help make people more aware of the Meduxnekeag River Watershed and



to help people learn to appreciate and protect this valuable resource. The Meduxnekeag is not only our river, it also plays a prominent role in New Brunswick, Canada as well. The Meduxnekeag Watershed Coalition and the Organization for Watershed Living both work to educate the public about the importance of the watershed. The watershed is not just the river, it is all the land that drains into the river as well. The Meduxnekeag Watershed is not in Maine only, it also encompasses part of New Brunswick, Canada. Across the border, the Meduxnekeag River Association works to preserve the hardwood forests, and all that they offer, that line the river. Together they are making a difference. If you'd like more information about any of these organizations or our water resources program, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Young Spirits -Maliseet Youth Drummers drumming in the rain. Clockwise from left Brea Sabatis, Sakima Lee, Mark Lewis (hidden), Gary Tucker and Shelby Lee

Apples & Chestnuts - A Tribal Wildlife Grant Update

by David Lombard, Forestry/Environmental Specialist

No, we're not talking recipes, we're talking projects we've begun in the third year of our Tribal Wildlife Grant funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Earlier this spring, David Lombard (Forestry Specialist) and Ryan Greenlaw (Water Resources Tech II) began work on releasing numerous apple trees located on Trust Lands. No we didn't have them locked up in cages, this type of work involves clearing away woody vegetation that competes with the apple trees for light, water and nutrients. We also pruned the apple trees. Pruning the trees included removing dead limbs, sucker branches and crisscrossing branches. This helps improve the health and fruit production of the trees by removing access points for insects and disease to enter the tree, as well as focusing the energy of the tree into the developing fruit. Further release work will be done in spring 2007. We expect this will improve food availability for deer, partridge and the other wildlife that feed on apples.



Before



After

Another project under the TWG is establishing American chestnut trees on tribal land. Chestnuts were once an extremely important tree in eastern forests; about 1 out of every 4 trees in the forest was a chestnut. They were an important food source for wildlife and Native Americans and chestnut wood was highly desirable for making furniture. A disease from Asia was accidentally introduced to North American forests and virtually wiped out the American chestnut. Work is currently underway to develop disease resistance in American chestnuts by breeding them with Chinese chestnuts (a species that is resistant to the disease).

Last fall we purchased Chestnut seedlings and nuts from the American Chestnut Foundation. We are using two different approaches to plant these trees. For the seedlings, we created planting sites by removing the grass/sod from an approximate 3'x3' area. The seedlings were then planted in the center of the site, weed control fabric installed and a tree protector tube was staked in around each tree.

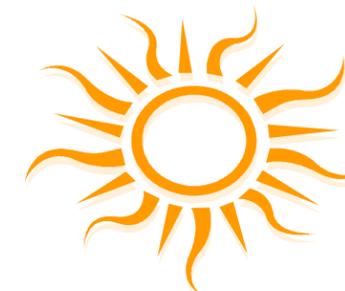
For the nuts, we simply dug a small hole in the ground and planted the nuts directly into the holes. Planting sites were flagged with wire flags and will be monitored for germination. Once the trees appear, we will be installing weed control fabric and tree protector tubes. Natural Resource Summer Technicians Misty Polchies and Alex London will be caring for these trees this summer.



Clockwise from Left - Summer Techs Alex London and Misty Polchies preparing to plant chestnut trees, chestnut seedlings awaiting transplant, almost done

Other activities under the TWG scheduled for this summer include maintaining our bird nesting boxes, creating snags and eradicating the invasive plant species discovered last year.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about these or other projects under the Tribal Wildlife Grant, please contact David Lombard at 532-4273 ext. 220.



Maine Rabies Management Program *continued*

| Year | Positive rabies cases | Positive raccoons |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1994 | 10 | 0 |
| 1995 | 43 | 41 |
| 1996 | 131 | 53 |
| 1997 | 244 | 130 |
| 1998 | 248 | 143 |
| 1999 | 208 | 116 |
| 2000 | 139 | 73 |
| 2001 | 85 | 34 |
| 2002 | 67 | 37 |
| 2003 | 82 | 38 |
| 2004 | 69 | 37 |
| 2005 | 61 | 37 |
| Total | 1,387 | 739 (53%) |

Table 1. Confirmed positive rabies cases in Maine, 1994-2005 (MHETL 2005).

Maine Rabies Management Program

The Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program was initiated in Maine in August 2003 to prevent the spread of rabies to northeastern Maine. The

Maine ORV program is part of an international cooperative effort that includes Maine and New Brunswick, Canada



Figure 1. Maine and Canadian rabies vaccination zones, 2005.

Since 2003, more than 450,000 ORV baits have been distributed in Maine, covering 1,600 square miles. The ORV zone is located north of where rabies is documented in the state, creating an area of vaccinated raccoons to prevent the rabies virus from advancing further north in

Maine and east into Canada.

Wildlife Services' (WS) staff measure the success of the program by live trapping and collecting blood samples from more than 100 raccoons in the ORV zone. This work is conducted four weeks after the vaccines are distributed giving the raccoons a chance to ingest them. The blood samples show if the captured raccoons have developed an antibody response to the rabies vaccine. In addition to the ORV program, WS provides enhanced rabies surveillance in northern Maine. This is achieved by collecting sick or strange acting raccoons or other wildlife that have **not** had contact with humans or domestic animals. The areas of interest are: north of Bangor, eastern Hancock and Washington Counties, and along the borders of Maine and Canada. By testing these animals we increase our understanding of where rabies is present and where it may go in the vast unpopulated areas of northern and eastern Maine. Results from the 2005 ORV event are pending.

Rabies Surveillance

Today, we have an opportunity to limit the spread of rabies through wildlife vaccination programs, public education about rabies and wildlife, and by limiting the movement of wildlife which could carry the disease. Your support is a critical component to the success of the rabies management program in Maine. Please report sick-acting wildlife in areas of northern Maine and submit these specimens by contacting Wildlife Services at **1-866-4-USDA-WS**.

For more information contact our website at

www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies

Meet the Summer Techs



Left to right, Natural Resources Techs Misty Polchies and Alex London, Water Resources Techs Justin Kobylarz and Danielle Howe

WANTED for rabies testing

USDA, Wildlife Services Rabies Management Program is monitoring raccoons and skunks for rabies in northern Maine.



Raccoons and skunks that:

- Are found dead or euthanized
- Found north of Bangor and northern coastal Maine
- Have **NOT** had contact with a human or domestic animal
- Are sick or acting strange (i.e., aggression, loss of fear to humans, porcupine quills in face, excessively salivating, walking in circles, lethargic, paralyzed)
- Please **DO NOT TOUCH THE ANIMAL**, if there has been contact (bite, scratch, etc.) please call the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 1-800-821-5821.

If you have an animal to be tested for rabies or questions, please call:

USDA's Wildlife Services

1-866-4-USDA-WS

or

(207) 622-8263