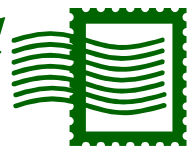


HBMI Natural Resources Department  
Natural Resources Department

88 Bell Road  
Littleton, ME 04730



## Commemorative Postal Cancellation



Believe it or not, you may be holding a collector's item! Instead of the usual bulk mail imprint that appears on our quarterly newsletter, this newsletter has been hand cancelled with a commemorative postal cancellation to honor HBMI's Recognition Day Celebration.

Postal cancellations such as the one that appears at the top right hand corner of this page are sought after by postal historians and enthusiasts from all over the world. Once this cancellation was announced in a press release from the U.S. Postal Service, we began to receive calls from all over the country. People have been asking questions about the tribe and the significance of the items that appear in the tribe's logo.

If you would like to receive another copy of the official cancellation, simply send your request along with an envelope or postcard with a stamp attached, and a self-addressed stamped envelope in a large outer envelope to the Postmaster, 30 Court Street, Houlton, ME 04730.

The Postmaster will stamp your card or envelope and return it to you for your collection.

### Word Search Answers

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

**Toqaqiw** (It is Autumn)

September 2006

Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief  
Susan Young - Editor

This newsletter is printed on  
recycled paper



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#### FORESTRY

David Lombard - ext 220

#### REAL ESTATE

Tony Tomah - ext 221

#### WATER RESOURCES

Cara Ellis - ext 212

#### ADMIN. ASST.

Sue Young - ext 202

## HBMI Natural Resources Department



## Calling All Volunteers! By Cara Ellis, Water Resources Spec.

Sportsmen, fishermen, and nature lovers alike... the Water Resources Department is seeking your help with quick assessment culvert surveys in the Meduxnekeag Watershed. We will provide all the tools you'll need, including mapped culvert locations, survey forms and quick guide, GPS unit, and camera. Just for helping us, you will become eligible to win a free Garmin Legend GPS. YES that's right !

### You could win a FREE Garmin Legend GPS unit!

Still not interested? We don't expect many people to be all that interested in rusty old culverts. But think for a minute about what a failing culvert might mean to a fish. Yes, think like a fish! If you couldn't swim through a culvert because it was too shallow (photo a) or jump this high (photo b) how might you make it to that cold water you are searching for or to safe spawning habitat?



photo a



photo b

Until recently, culverts were not designed with fish passage in mind, therefore many don't pass fish.

The goal of our study is to determine where the most significant and crucial fish blockages are. We can then share this information with local and state agencies and apply for future restoration funding.

We are looking for volunteers for this fall season and also for next summer season. If you want to help, please call Cara Ellis 532-4273 ext 212.



In Washington State, a chum salmon crosses the road because the stream crossing was blocked by floodwaters.

Photo by Harley Soltes /The Seattle Times

All photos from Massachusetts Stream Crossing Handbook



## Protecting Your Home From Wildfire

Each year around the United States, hundreds of people build their dream homes out of the city amidst the woods and mountains. Many of these homes end up in the path of wildfires that destroy many homes and cause millions of dollars of property damage. These homes are not all in remote areas, they are situated in areas like Houlton and surrounding woodland communities.

The Maine Forest Service has put together a list of 50 things that you can do to protect your home from wildfire. Some of these tips cost only a little of your time, while others cost \$500.00 or more. Whatever tip you choose, a little effort on your part can protect your home and family.

### *No Cost, just a little time*

- Move your firewood pile out of your home's defensible space (20 - 30 feet).
- Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles (best done in October).
- Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street.
- Put a hose (at least 100' long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
- Trim all tree branches that overhang your house.
- Trim all tree branches from within 20' of all chimneys.
- Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
- Prune branches over hanging the driveway to have 14' overhead clearance.
- Maintain a green lawn for 30' around your home.
- If new homes are still being built in your area, talk to the developer and local zoning officials about building standards.
- Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family. Have a practice drill. Include your pets.
- Get involved with your community's disaster mitigation plans.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Are they still charged? Are they easy to get to in an emergency?

Does everyone in the family know where they are and how to use them?



- Remove conifer shrubs from your home's defensible space especially if your home is in a high-risk area.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. Consult your insurance agent about costs of rebuilding and repairs in your area.
- Talk to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches.
- If you have a burn barrel that you use for burning trash, STOP!
- Compost leaves in the fall, don't burn them. Always follow local burning regulations.
- Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose BEFORE you start the fire.
- Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing towards your home (or your neighbor's home).
- Clear dead wood and dense flammable vegetation from your home's defensible space.

### *Minimal cost actions (\$10-\$25 and a little time)*

- Install highly visible house numbers (at least 4" tall) on your home.
- Install big, highly visible house numbers (at least 4" tall) at the entrance of the driveway onto the street. Use non-flammable materials and posts.
- Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
- Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety. Invite your local fire chief. Have coffee and donuts for neighbors.
- Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen AND the garage.
- Install a metal shield between your home and an attached wood fence.

*Continued on next page*

## Underground Injection Project by Sharri Venno, Environmental Planner

Folks living at Maliseet Riverside Village may have seen people and equipment working at the east end of the Machine Shed this spring and summer. We've been investigating possible soil and ground water contamination from historical use of this building by the previous owner.

Two floor drains inside the building emptying into a drywell just outside its east wall led to concerns that oil, pesticides or other chemicals may have been dumped into these floor drains in the past. CES, an engineering firm from Brewer, who did the site investigation, reports a small amount of oil-contaminated soil at the bottom of the drywell. Groundwater received a

clean bill of health.

We expect to remove the contaminated soil this fall.

Thanks go to tribal member Fred Tomah for notifying tribal government of the existence of the two floor drains and drywell. Thanks also go to Maliseet Housing Authority staff for plugging the floor drains with cement to prevent any further contamination and for their work with Natural Resources staff on the site investigation.



*Plugged drain in machine shed*

## Farewell Summer Techs

Hard to believe another summer is coming to an end. Time continues to fly right by and so it's time to say good bye to our summer technicians. Please join us in wishing them well.

Front row, Water Resource Technicians Danielle Howe and Chris Campbell. Back row, Natural Resources Technicians Misty Polchies and Alex London.



## Recognition Day Word Search

*Find these words in the puzzle below*



Bingo	Grand Entry
Commemorative Stamp	Muskrat Singers
Dancing	Native Crafts
Drumming	Recognition
Family	Regalia
Feast	Sacred Fire
Four Winds	Smudge
Frybread	Sweetgrass

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



## Chestnut Tree Planting *By David Lombard Environmental / Forestry Specialist*

Earlier this summer, David Lombard, Misty Polchies and Alexandra London planted 15 American chestnut seedlings and 25 nuts as part of the tribe's work under a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Tribal Wildlife Grant program.

The American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), a member of the beech family, was once the most important forest tree throughout much of the eastern United States and southeasternmost Canada. Rapidly growing, this tall and broad deciduous hardwood tree, could reach up to 150' tall, with a top 100' across, and a trunk up to 10' in diameter. This tree ranged from Maine and southern Ontario to Mississippi, from the Atlantic coast to the Appalachian Mountains and Ohio Valley.

The chestnuts are related to beech and oak but they are entirely unrelated to the horse-chestnuts (buckeyes).



The American chestnut is a prolific bearer of nuts, usually with three nuts enclosed in each spiny green burr lined in tan velvet. The nuts develop through late summer with the burrs opening and falling to the ground near the first fall frost.

The American chestnut was a very important tree for wildlife, providing much of the fall mast (food) for species such as White-tailed Deer and Wild Turkey and the now extinct Passenger Pigeon. Black Bears were also known to eat the nuts to fatten up for the winter (and still do in those rare instances where they can still encounter the nuts.)

The chestnut, once an important hardwood timber tree, is highly susceptible to an Asian bark fungus or "chestnut blight" that was accidentally introduced to America on Chinese chestnut ornamental nursery stock at the Bronx Zoo in 1904. While the introduced Chinese chestnuts evolved with the blight and are immune, the airborne bark fungus spread 50 miles a year and in just a few decades girdled and killed billions of American Chestnuts. Fortunately, the stumps survive and produce new shoots, so the species has been saved from extinction, although the stump sprouts rarely reach more than 20 feet in height before blight infection returns.

At one time, it is estimated that one quarter of the trees in the eastern forest were American chestnut, an estimated 3.5 billion trees. The number of surviving



Photos : (left) Chestnut seedlings waiting to be planted

(lower left) newly planted chestnut seedling  
(bottom right) chestnut seedling has grown enough to peek out of top of protective tubing.



mature trees can now be counted in the mere dozens. The finest surviving trees (featured in National Geographic) can be found in Sherwood, Oregon, since much of western North America is still free of blight.

Several organizations are attempting to breed blight-resistant chestnuts. The American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation, breeds surviving all-American chestnuts, which have shown some native resistance to blight. The Canadian Chestnut Council is attempting to reintroduce the trees in Canada, primarily in Ontario. The American Chestnut Foundation, is backcrossing blight-resistant American Chestnut/Chinese Chestnut hybrids to American parents, in an attempt to recover the American growth characteristics and genetic makeup. They then intercross the advanced generations in order to breed consistently for blight resistance. The eventual goal of this program is to reintroduce the species to the wild. In 2005, a hybrid tree with mostly American genes was planted on the lawn of the White House, and to date is doing very well. The United States National Arboretum also has taken an interest in the American chestnut, using similar methods of backcrossing to create hybrids resistant to blight. Overall, it is anticipated that the species may be ready for trial plantings in the wild by 2010.

For more information check out:

[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

American Chestnut Foundation

[www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org)

American Chestnut Cooperators Association

<http://www.ppws.vt.edu/griffin/accf.html>

## Wildfire (continued)

- Replace conifer and evergreen shrubs with low-flammable plants in your home's defensible space.
- Thin and prune conifer trees for 30' to 100' around your home.

### Moderate cost actions (\$50–\$250 and a little more work)

- Build a gravel turnaround area near your house big enough to allow a fire truck to turn around.
- Join your neighbors in having an additional access road into your neighborhood. Share the costs.
- Treat flammable materials like wood roofs, decks, and siding with fire retardant chemicals.
- Modify driveway gates to accommodate fire trucks. They should be at least 10' wide and set back at least 30' from the road. If locked, use a key box approved by your local fire department or use a chain loop with the lock that can be cut in an emergency.
- Enclose decks to prevent accumulation of leaves, needles, and debris. Include a metal screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck.

### High cost actions (more than \$500)

- Replace your roof with fire-resistant materials such as Class A shingles.

- Install a roof irrigation system to protect your home's roof.
- Install an independent water supply for a sprinkler system with a non-electric (e.g., propane) powered pump capable of running unattended for 24 hours.
- Replace wood or vinyl siding with non-flammable material.
- Replace single-pane glass windows and plastic sky lights with tempered, double-pane glass.
- Box in eaves, fascias, and soffits with aluminum or steel materials with metal screens to prevent entry of sparks.
- Improve driveway culverts and bridges to accommodate the weight of a fire truck.
- Relocate propane tanks inside the defensible space but at least 10' from the house. Be sure to have non-flammable ground cover such as gravel around them for 10'.
- Have electric service lines to your house placed underground.
- Improve your driveway by straightening sharp curves and filling in sharp dips that would hinder a fire truck.

For more information about protecting your home and property go to

[www.maine.gov/doc/mfs](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs)



## A Fond Farewell

As the summer comes to a close, we must say a fond farewell to Ryan Greenlaw, Water Resources Tech II as he prepares to begin his new position as manager of Rollerama. Ryan has been a fixture in the Natural Resources Department for a number of years. First as a summer forestry technician in 2001, then as a member of the water resources team after completing the BIA water resources training in New Mexico in 2004. Ryan's sense of humor and good nature will truly be missed. We wish him all the best for the future.

*Apc oc nitap!*







## Mmm . . . Garlic Mustard

Yes it's edible, yes it smells good (if you like garlic) but this pretty little white flower spells trouble in the native plant community. According to the National Park Service, garlic mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*, native to Europe, has begun to

take over eastern Canada, south to Virginia and as far west as Kansas and Nebraska.

Garlic mustard presents a severe threat to many native spring wildflowers, especially those who complete their life cycles in the spring. Wildflowers such as spring beauty, wild ginger, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, trilliums, etc. cannot compete with garlic mustard for light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Wildlife that depend on these native plants for food (foliage, seeds, pollen, nectar, fruits and roots) also suffer from the presence of garlic mustard.

This plant frequently occurs in the moist shaded soils of river floodplains, forests and roadsides. It is also found along wooded edges, trail edges and forest openings. Garlic mustard is a biennial, spending it's first year of it's two year life cycle as a rosette of leaves. The following spring, it develops rapidly producing spring flowers that bloom, die and produce seed by mid June. Each seed pod contain thousands of seeds that can scatter as much as several meters from the parent plant. The seed is also spread by humans and wildlife. Interestingly, large white tail deer populations can actually help the spread of garlic mustard, by eating native plants and exposing the soil for the mustard seeds.

Garlic mustard is difficult to manage or eradicate once it is established. The seeds can remain viable for up to 5 years in the soil. Therefore, one management goal is to prevent seed production until the stored seed is no longer viable. Removing these plants by hand is possible in light infestations, however, extreme care must be used to remove the plant and it's entire root system, since new plants can sprout from any remaining root fragments. This is best done in early spring when the soil is moist and the plant is more easily removed with roots intact. The plants must then be destroyed and not simply left to decay on the ground.

Not everyone sees garlic mustard as a problem. Many people use this plant for food and medicinal needs. Garlic mustard is also called Jack-by-the-Hedge and



Summer techs Alex London & Misty Polchies pose with their truckload of garlic mustard pulled on tribal lands in June.

sauce alone. It's leaves are also known to contain a form of natural anti-freeze that helps lower the freezing point of water. Some people favor the mildly bitter, garlic flavored leaves in the late fall through early spring, while others find them too bitter unless cooked and mixed with milder vegetables. In Europe, it is used to flavor sauces. Sometimes extremely large plants yield large white fleshy taproots which are reported to taste like horseradish. The juice from the leaves is also reported to be an antiseptic, useful in cleansing skin ulcers and eruptions. The crushed leaves can also be used to help relieve aching limbs.

For more information on garlic mustard please check out the following websites

The National Park Service

[www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm)

Cornell University

[www.invasiveplants.net](http://www.invasiveplants.net)



**Remember**  
turn your clocks  
ahead one hour  
on  
**October 29th!**



## Watershed Initiative Update by Sharri Venno, Environmental Planner

You may remember the Band successfully competed for one of twenty EPA Watershed Initiative grants awarded nation-wide in 2003 in the amount of \$700,000. The grant is in the third year of a five-year project period. The grant proposal addresses water quality impairments in tribal waters (and in the entire Meduxnekeag watershed) identified by our Water Resources Program, including high levels of nutrient, sediment and bacterial contamination resulting from upstream agricultural activities and an illicit sewer connection on a municipal storm drain.

The grant award itself is a measure of the success we have achieved in partnership building, grants management and administration, and the characterization and quantification of our water quality problems. Project partners we've cultivated over a number of years include the local conservation district, who manages the project, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, who spearheads the outreach and education effort, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, who provides technical assistance, and the Maine Dept of Environmental Protection, who along with HBMI, cosponsored the original grant submittal to EPA. As a measure of partnership strength, during project development, our partners requested that HBMI write, submit and administer the Watershed Initiative Grant.



One of the goals of the Watershed Initiative is to keep the river looking like this



Not this!

To date, as a result of grant activities:

- 1) bacteria levels in the targeted upstream storm drain have declined from an average of 35,000 to a approximately 350 colonies per milliliter (the illicit sewer connection was located and removed); and
- 2) fifteen (15) farmers have applied winter cover (in the form of mulch or cover crops) on 3900 acres of potato fields, keeping approximately 1200 tons of farm soil out of the Meduxnekeag River. 1719 acres and 516 tons of farm soil were protected in 2005.

## Tree Swallow Decline By David Lombard Environmental / Forestry Specialist



Misty Polchies and David Lombard performing nest box maintenance

While performing this summer's nest box maintenance, we found that many of the tree swallow nests contained dead birds (13 adults and babies), an increase from last year. As a result, we contacted Ron Joseph of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Old Town, Maine.

According to Ron, the increased mortality was most likely a result of a stretch of wet weather earlier this spring that prevented the adults from feeding. Tree

swallows feed primarily on flying insects which they catch in mid-air. The rainy conditions reduced the number of flying insects, thereby reducing the amount of food available to the birds. Consequently many of the adults and babies starved in their nests. You may think this is a cause for concern but it is just a part of the natural cycle of life that surrounds us all.

On a happier note, nest box use by tree swallows was up 27% from last year and a thriving population continues to frequent the skies on Tribal land.

