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*Nipon (It is Summer)*  
June 2007  
Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief  
Susan Young - Editor  
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Let's Get Growing



Brown Ash Sprout

Ash trees that is! Over the past 2 winters, David Lombard has been working to successfully germinate brown ash seeds with the ultimate goal of restoring brown ash to tribal lands. Brown ash can be very difficult to start from seed as they undergo two periods of dormancy before sprouting. Each fall David begins the cycle by placing the

seeds in a warm moist environment for 90 days. The seeds are then moved into a cold moist environment for another 90 days. After the 6 months has passed the seeds are then warmed to mimic the normal seasonal changes they would undergo in nature. Without these periods of warmth and cold, the seeds will not sprout.



We are very fortunate that the seedlings started last spring survived the winter and are putting on new leaves. The number of sprouts this year has been quite good. David has been busy transplanting this year's crop (approx. 350), into their growing containers. Now comes the hard part, nurturing them through their early years. They need water, light and shelter to thrive just as people do. In the wild, the young plants are shielded by other vegetation as they grow skyward, trees in pots need special attention.



Top - transplanted seedlings, below - close up of new sprout

This summer we are erecting a greenhouse to help us with the task of growing these seedlings to maturity.

**Got Fish? Help assess local fish passage!**

The Meduxnekeag River Watershed contains over 1500 miles of beautiful rivers and streams — and is home to more than 800 road-stream crossings.

Fish must navigate these obstacles on their way to spawning grounds and cooler habitat.

**Fish need to be able to cross under these roads in a way that doesn't harm them.**

**BUT SAFE PASSAGE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE**

Spend some time outdoors helping Organization for Watershed Living (OWL), Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI) and Trout Unlimited (TU) in assessing our local culverts.

**Road-Stream Crossings Matter Because**

**BAD CROSSINGS CAN:**

- block the movement of fish
- separate breeding populations; small breeding populations are more vulnerable to extinction
- restrict movement into cooler waters needed to relieve heat stress
- be a safety issue for automobiles
- be costly to fix

**Think like a fish: Can you recognize these frightening conditions?**

- Speed: Fish don't always have the strength to swim through fast moving turbulent water
- Depth: Is there even enough water to make it through?
- Behavior: Fish don't like to swim into dark places (studies show!)
- Jump: Fish can't jump into hanging culverts

**Why Are There So Many Problems?**

- Older crossings were not designed for fish passage
- Aging infrastructure
- Slow introduction of new technology to municipalities and landowners
- Budgets for upkeep and maintenance are limited

**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!**

1. **VOLUNTEER:** Join us in assessing the status of the local culverts and help prioritize which ones need to be fixed. You'll be trained in the evaluation and GPS location recording of culverts and become part of the first effort of this kind in the area! Send in your contact info so we can keep you posted. And look in the papers and around town for more info about dates for training and work.
2. **Talk to your town office:** Think about saving your tax dollars by repairing culverts in a more sustainable and eco-conscious way.

**CONTACT ANGIE REED WITH ORGANIZATION FOR WATERSHED LIVING (OWL) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER! 532-4889 or areed@owliving.org**

**Word Search Answers**

Across: 1. KAVLNOSEKCNM, 2. LUTKIBHGMDO, 3. DENRFLABGLY, 4. OKIYJWNALH, 5. WVKDRMSRFSKXR, 6. SDOETRGMRFRFEMVA, 7. YGOTLBVAUCNMXZ, 8. RGRFMDSDROVXE, 9. VMBSTMAVODLEUTSR, 10. CTSKSPOFUBDYLT, 11. KJCKREMLFMNNH, 12. NMONRPFLEBVA, 13. IMORGJUNHBYBL, 14. FCBCEXSMZVDO, 15. TGD

Down: 1. E, 2. S, 3. L, 4. I, 5. W, 6. A, 7. B, 8. H, 9. G, 10. M, 11. D, 12. V, 13. Z, 14. O, 15. U, 16. T, 17. P, 18. G, 19. M, 20. S, 21. D, 22. E, 23. N, 24. R, 25. F, 26. A, 27. B, 28. G, 29. L, 30. Y, 31. J, 32. W, 33. N, 34. A, 35. H, 36. L, 37. E, 38. T, 39. Y, 40. D, 41. I, 42. O, 43. K, 44. I, 45. Y, 46. J, 47. W, 48. N, 49. A, 50. H, 51. L, 52. E, 53. T, 54. Y, 55. D, 56. W, 57. V, 58. K, 59. D, 60. R, 61. M, 62. S, 63. R, 64. F, 65. S, 66. K, 67. I, 68. X, 69. R, 70. S, 71. D, 72. O, 73. E, 74. T, 75. R, 76. G, 77. M, 78. R, 79. F, 80. R, 81. F, 82. E, 83. M, 84. V, 85. A, 86. Y, 87. G, 88. O, 89. T, 90. L, 91. B, 92. V, 93. A, 94. U, 95. C, 96. N, 97. M, 98. X, 99. Z, 100. R, 101. G, 102. R, 103. F, 104. M, 105. D, 106. S, 107. R, 108. O, 109. V, 110. X, 111. Y, 112. E, 113. D, 114. V, 115. M, 116. B, 117. S, 118. T, 119. M, 120. A, 121. V, 122. O, 123. D, 124. L, 125. E, 126. U, 127. S, 128. T, 129. R, 130. C, 131. T, 132. S, 133. K, 134. S, 135. P, 136. O, 137. I, 138. U, 139. F, 140. B, 141. D, 142. Y, 143. L, 144. T, 145. K, 146. J, 147. C, 148. K, 149. R, 150. E, 151. M, 152. L, 153. F, 154. M, 155. N, 156. N, 157. H, 158. N, 159. O, 160. M, 161. R, 162. P, 163. F, 164. L, 165. E, 166. B, 167. R, 168. V, 169. A, 170. K, 171. I, 172. M, 173. O, 174. R, 175. G, 176. J, 177. U, 178. N, 179. H, 180. Y, 181. B, 182. G, 183. L, 184. R, 185. V, 186. F, 187. C, 188. B, 189. C, 190. D, 191. E, 192. X, 193. S, 194. M, 195. Z, 196. V, 197. D, 198. G, 199. T

**TELEPHONE LISTING**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

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**FORESTRY**

David Lombard - ext 220

**REAL ESTATE**

Tony Tomah - ext 221

**WATER RESOURCES**

Cara Ellis - ext 212

Dave Joseph - ext 216

**ADMIN. ASST.**

Sue Young - ext 202



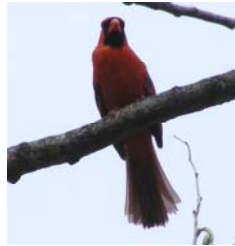
Reducing Oil In The Environment

Did you know, approximately 29 million gallons of oil contaminates the waters of North America each year? That is enough oil to cover an area greater than Texas and Florida combined!

There are many ways you can help reduce the amount of oil that makes its way into our streams, lakes, rivers, oceans and wells.



# The Wonderful World of Nature



Every year Spring comes around and shrugs off the cold, gray days of winter. This year it seems we went to bed with bare trees and the next morning the world exploded in color.

This Spring we have had many colorful sightings from the animal world. The osprey have returned to their nest on the Meduxnekeag River just outside the Admin Building. A comical guest has been hanging around the parking lot on beautiful sunny days. We have had a male cardinal coming around doing his

mating calls and fighting with his reflection in the side view mirrors of vehicles in the parking lot. His beautiful call serenades us most mornings.

**Watch your step!** That was the message for the water crew as they were out in the field the other day. As they approached the river from behind Tate & Lyle (the old Staley's) Cara was surprised to find a very young fawn, curled up motionless in the grass where it's mother left it. The deer couldn't have been more than a few days old. It was a special moment for them all.



Left - Young deer hiding in the tall grass

Below - Close up of the fawn



## The Mighty Meduxnekeag

In keeping with Houlton's bi-centennial celebrations, we thought it would be a good time to highlight some of the many uses of the Meduxnekeag over the years.

The Meduxnekeag Watershed was a very busy place back in the 1800's with the river playing a major part in the industry and development of Houlton and the surrounding towns. The Meduxnekeag was a crucial part of the many mills and foundries in the area. The geology of the watershed also helped the development of a brick yard that back in 1894-1895 was producing a million bricks per year. A large number of buildings in the area are constructed with these bricks. The Houlton Marble and Granite works was established at Nickerson Lake in New Limerick and was known far and wide for it's superior True Blue Granite.

See if you can find these words hidden in the puzzle

Bricks	Marble
Carys Mills	Meduxnekeag
Cooks Brook	New Limerick
Dam	Nickerson Lake
Drews	Plywood mill
Flour	Quarry
Foundry	Saw mill
Granite	True Blue Granite
Grist mill	Water

## Word Search Puzzle

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



## Paper or Plastic?

A question almost as perplexing as which came first the chicken or the egg? When trying to decide which bag to choose at the grocery store consider the following:

### Plastic bags

— Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide.

— Plastics do NOT biodegrade. Rather, they photodegrade, a process in which sunlight breaks down plastic into smaller and smaller pieces.

— It can take up to 1,000 years for a high-density polyethylene plastic bag to break down in the environment.

— Plastic bags are on the top 10 list of most common trash items along the American coastline (both on land and in the water).

### Paper bags

— Paper bags generate 70 percent more air pollutants and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags.

— 2,000 plastic bags weigh 30 pounds, 2,000 paper bags weigh 280 pounds. The latter takes up a lot more landfill space.

— It takes 91 percent less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle a pound of paper. It takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it does to manufacture a plastic bag.

Sources: reusablebags.com, NRDC and International Coastal Cleanup 2005 Report from the Ocean Conservancy

Unfortunately, even when you choose to recycle those plastic bags, many of the bags are never recycled. It costs approximately \$4,000 to recycle 1 ton of plastic bags but the recycled material only brings about \$32.00 on the recycled market. Many companies are not willing to invest this amount of money in a unprofitable process and choose to ship the bags overseas to third world countries. And recycling doesn't reduce the strain on resources to create the initial bags.

The problem with these recycled

bags is not restricted to the United States or North America. In Africa, cottage industries have cropped up where villagers collect windblown plastic bags and weave them into hats, rugs etc. According to the BBC one group collects and uses 30,000 bags per month.

In 2002, Ireland passed a plastic bag consumption tax looking to reduce the number of plastic bags used in that country. (1.2 billion bags or approx 316 per person). This tax has been extremely successful in reducing their consumption rate by 90% and approx 18,000,000 liters of oil has been saved from production. Other governments around the world are considering similar legislation.

Right now there isn't an easy answer to this question, paper or plastic. For now, bringing your own sturdy reusable bags totes or boxes to the store will help reduce the impact of plastic bags on the environment.



## NAFWS National Conference (cont)

of 475,000 acres or about 742 square miles. Of that, 112,000 acres make up Pyramid Lake which is about 15 miles long and 11 miles wide and up to 350 feet deep. It is one of the largest freshwater desert lakes in the world. The lake was very impressive in the middle of the desert.

While there a wild land fire broke out and could smoke could be seen for miles away. The fire burned more

than 800 acres before fire-fighters began to gain the upper hand.



View from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fisheries complex



Lahontan cut throat trout, below in spawning channel



Wild fire as seen from hotel room



## House Lots Program



The Real Estate Department is pleased to announce we are currently working to develop a home site leasing program for interested HBMI tribal members.

The program is being designed to provide leased lots to tribal members for home sites. Under this program tribal members may apply for a lease of tribal lands to build or place a new home as a permanent residence.

We have set aside approximately four (4) acres for this program divided into one (1) acre lots. These lots are located on the Currie Road on the Lowrey Farm.

While working on identifying other areas of tribal land for additional lots, we are also developing a Home Site Lease Ordinance and Procedure which will outline and prescribe the entire process.

For further information please contact our Real Estate Services Program Director, Anthony Tomah @ 532-4273 extension 221 or email [nrdirector@maliseets.com](mailto:nrdirector@maliseets.com)



## Meet the Summer Techs



(Left to right) New Summer Techs, Matt Day and Pat Ward.

Well it's summer time again and that means one thing, time to welcome our new Natural Resources Summer Techs. This year, due to budget cuts, we were only able to hire 2 techs, instead of the usual 4.

This year, Matt Day will be working with Dave Joseph and Cara Ellis in the water program, while Pat Ward will be working with David Lombard on a variety of tribal wildlife, forestry and environmental protection projects.



## A Generous Gift of Land

Tony Tomah, Real Estate Director is pleased to announce that Mr. John Plante of Monticello, Maine has donated 125 acres of land in Monticello to the Tribe.

Mr. Plante approached with the offer to donate his property to HBMI with the stipulation he receive a life estate on his home.



Plante Property in Monticello

This means the Tribe will take ownership of the land and Mr. Plante will be entitled to live out his life in his home. Upon Mr. Plante's death the title to the home will be transferred to the HBMI.

Chief Brenda Commander accompanied Tony on a visit to Mr. Plante's home where they discussed his reasons for this generous donation. Apparently he has strong feelings about the Wabanaki people and as he put it, said he wanted to return some of our lands to us. This is a very generous gift to our Tribe and the generations to come!



Chief Commander with John Plante

## Pearce Brook Clean-up Day Saturday June 23, 2007

10 am to 3 pm  
(rain date June 30)

### Free Lunch -

**T-shirts and prizes**  
(participants must be 16 or older)

Gloves & trash bags provided -  
feel free to bring your own  
shovels, hand tools, rakes, etc.

Please remember your sunscreen  
and insect repellent and be sure  
to wear durable foot gear

### This event sponsored by:

Andy's IGA \* Aroostook Auto Tech \* Aroostook Milling \* Aroostook Veterinary Services \* County Yankee \* Dickison & London \* F.A. Peabody \* Horten Building Supplies \* Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI) \* Houlton Farms Dairy \* Houlton Lodge of Elks \* Katahdin Trust Company \* Mac's Trading Post \* Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (MeDEP) \* Maine Glove \* Mardens \* Meduxnekeag Watershed Coalition (MWC) \* MPG \* Organization for Watershed Living (OWL) \* Peabody Lawn & Leisure \* Pine Tree Waste \* Pizza Hut \* Prentiss & Carlisle \* Sadie's Bakery \* Sage Financial \* So. Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District \* Steelstone Industries \* Tim Horton's \* Town & Country Clothing \* Town of Houlton \* Wal-Mart

Watch for signs on Sugarloaf Street





## It's Not Too Late to Join the Culvert Survey

A while back you should have received a call for volunteers to help assess the condition of the many stream culverts in the Meduxnekeag Watershed. It's still not too late to join the project.

The first training session took place on Saturday June 2, led by Cara Ellis and Angie Reed. A number of folks showed up to learn why culverts are so important, how to assess a culvert, is it too shallow, too deep a drop off, filled with debris and so on. Volunteers also had hands-on sessions with handheld GPS units to help locate and document the culverts. It was a great day full of fun and laughter. There's plenty of routes still available so won't you join us?

Learning the basics ►



Dressed for black fly season ►



Learning what to look for ►



## 2007 NAFWS National Conference

*"Voices from the Past to Guide the Vision for the Future"*

*"Mooasoo Nayadooapu  
Namanekuna Nabunekuna"*

2007 Marks the 25th anniversary of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS). In May, Sue Young traveled to Reno to attend the national conference hosted by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) of Nevada.

The conference was attended by over 300 representatives of many Tribes across the US and Canada, along with people from State and Federal agencies and the private sector.

The conference held many interesting sessions, from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Showcase and the

Tribal Leaders Panel, to many sessions on Fisheries, Wildlife and Resource Management. John Banks, Natural Resources Director for the Penobscot Indian Nation, also gave a presentation highlighting the work they've been doing to restore the Penobscot River here in Maine.

The PLPT sponsored a field trip and tour of their lands and put on a tremendous feast that included elk, salmon and cui ui (a traditional food fish) followed by drumming and dancing.

The Tribe's lands are located in a remote desert area approx. 35 miles from Reno, in Washoe, Lyon and Storey Counties. Their lands consist

*continued on page 7*



▲ Our first glimpse of Pyramid Lake

◀ Mural at Pyramid Lake Reservation,

▼ Unusual desert plant,



## Reducing Oil (continued)

You can reduce the amount of oil that gets into the environment by:

- ♣ Keep your vehicles well maintained to help prevent oil/fuel leakage on the ground and in water.
- ♣ Don't pour motor oil or other oily substances into storm drains, on the ground or in ditches. Instead recycle all used oil and antifreeze at your local recycling center.
- ♣ Place cooking oils and fats in a sealed container in the garbage instead of pouring them down the kitchen sink or flushing it down the toilet.
- ♣ Avoid topping off the gas tank at



the pump to avoid leakage onto the ground.

- ♣ Use drip pans when unclipping hoses, unscrewing filters or removing car parts.
- ♣ Walk, bicycle or take a bus or public transportation whenever possible.

Other ways to help the wildlife and the environment include:

- ♣ Bring your own reusable canvas

or cotton bags to the grocery store.

- ♣ Avoid releasing helium balloons into the sky since the often end up in the water.
- ♣ Dispose of fishing lines/lures properly to keep them out of the water where animals may mistake them for food.
- ♣ Reuse and recycle plastic. Many marine animals such as turtles, whales and dolphins mistake plastic for food. The plastic can block their digestive tracts and they often die of starvation.

**For more information go to:**

[www.dawnsaveswildlife.com](http://www.dawnsaveswildlife.com)

## Conservation Camp Scholarship



The Chiputneticook Lakes International Conservancy (CLIC) is offering scholarships for two youngsters between the ages 10 and 14 to attend one of four five-day (Sunday thru Friday afternoon) overnight camp sessions this summer at the Greenland Point Center Conservation Camp (GPCCC), an environmental education and outdoor recreation center in Princeton, ME. The camps are designed to help students become good stewards of the environment while learning skills to help them venture safely into the Maine woods.

The program is designed to help middle grade students to safely enjoy themselves while venturing into the Maine woods. Activities include: Canoeing and Water Safety, Swim-

ming, Fly Casting, Rifle Instruction and Safe Gun Handling, Animal and Fish Identification, Sailing and Safe Boat Handling, Archery, Wildlife Management, Sportsman Ethics, Woods Survival, Tracking Wildlife, Trapping, Tree Identification, Forest and Water Conservation, Map and Compass Reading. All activities are lead by GPCCC staff who are certified as Hunter Safety Instructors, ARC First Responder, ARC Lifeguards, and IF&W Rifle Range Safety Officers. Conservation Camp sessions are offered: June 24-29, July 8-13, July 22-27 and July 29-August 3.

To qualify for a scholarship, you must meet ONE of these criteria: 1) he or she must be a relative of a CLIC member, OR 2) have a CLIC sponsored fish tank in his or her class-room (East Grand, Hodgdon, Houlton & Houlton Christian Academy), OR 3) spend part of the year in

the St. Croix Watershed area (Amity to Calais). Each applicant is asked to write a short letter telling why they want to go to conservation camp.

If selected, CLIC will pay \$300.00 towards tuition. The recipient, must pay the remaining \$100.00 fee.

Applications will be accepted within these guidelines and although there is no deadline, applications should be submitted as soon as possible. To submit an application or for more information, contact Ann Barnes at 207 532-3556 or 207 448-7094 or e-mail questions to [pegone@mfx.net](mailto:pegone@mfx.net)

For more information and to see some photographs, visit the GPCCC Web page at: <http://www.greenlandpoint.com/ConservationCamp.htm>

<http://www.chiplakenews.org/CLICscholarship.htm>