HBMI Natural Resources Department

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The Gift of the Turtle

This June, the tribal offices were once again selected as a good nesting spot for at least one snapping turtle. The turtle, shown here was seen laying her eggs in the gravel along side Bell Road. The female usually deposits 25 to 80 eggs into the nest.

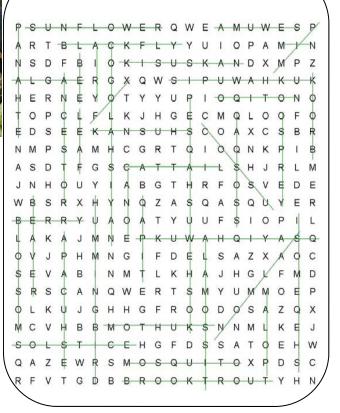


The eggs will hatch in 9 to 18 weeks depending on the weather conditions, warmer temps mean earlier babies. In cooler climates, the young will over-winter in the nest emerging the next spring.

Common habitats are shallow ponds, shallow lakes, or streams. Some may inhabit brackish environments, such as estuaries. Snapping turtles are omnivores, consuming both plant and animal matter, and are important aquatic scavengers; but they are also active hunters that prey on anything they can swallow, including many invertebrates, fish, frogs, reptiles (including snakes and smaller turtles), unwary birds and small mammals. Snappers are also fiercely defensive and can easily break a stick, finger or toe with their powerful jaws. So please appreciate them from a distance when encountering them in our natural world.

for more info on snapping turtles go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snapping_Turtle

Word Search Answers



Nipon (Summer) June 2009

Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief Susan Young - Editor

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Insert: What Would You Do?
Outdoor Skills Quiz

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HBMI Natural Resources Department Skitkomiq Nutacomit Earth Speaker



Glowing Eyes in the Dark

by Samantha Perrin

Have you ever been outside at night with your flashlight and seen those glowing eyes in the dark? Before your imagination runs away with you and you start thinking about the scary things that are out there, you should know that it is nothing more than eyeshine. Now you are probably asking what is eyeshine?

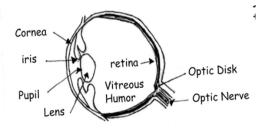
In order to understand eyeshine you have to understand a little bit about the anatomy of the eye. In all eyes you have rods (light receptors) and cones (color receptors), a retina (the image surface at the back of the eye and the cornea and pupil (where

images enter the eye and are focused on the retina). In nocturnal animals, there is another special layer called the tapetum. The tapetum is located behind the retina and reflects light back out through the eye. Humans do not have this special layer; behind our retina there is a layer of dark

colored cells that absorb the light instead of reflecting it.

The tapetum increases the eyes ability to gather light in minimal light

conditions. Animals cannot see in total darkness; there needs to be some sort of light source. This



reflective layer allows them to use light sources so low that to us it would seem like total darkness. Total darkness at night seldom occurs; the moon provides enough light for our nocturnal animals to

move about with little difficulty.
The reflection of light

from the tapetum is what causes eyeshine. Eyeshine is different colors for different species. As light passes through the eye, the various layers filter the light in different ways

creating different

colors. The color of the iris in the eye also seems to have an effect on the color of eyeshine that is produced. This is a great way to identify animals at night.

Did you know?

Bobcats are one of the animals that have

the brightest eyeshine. This is because

hey have more rods present in the eye.

his makes them great nocturnal hunters.

continued page 3



Native Earth:

Northeast Regional Native Youth Environment Camp

Calling all Native American Youth, grades 9 - 12 in the Northeastern Region (NY, NH, MA, ME, VT, CT,

You're invited to apply to attend this camp sponsored by the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Foresty (SUNY ESF) in Syracuse NY with a grant from the National Science Foundation. The camp will be held August 15 to 25, 2009.

This 10 day summer camp experience is for indigenous youth focused on land skills and environmental stewardship, using both traditional ecological knowledge and environmental science. Instructors include Native Elders, teachers and environmental science professional from throughout the northeast.

The program objectives of this camp include:

♦ A renewal of cultural and

- traditional relations to the earth
- Cultural sharing between Northeast nations/tribes
- ♦ Educating our youth on traditional ecological knowledge
- ♦ Education on environmental science and field ecology
- ♦ Promote environmental leadership

The National Science Foundation will support twenty (20) native youth with a full scholarship to the camp covering room, board and program fees. Should enrollment exceed the 20 scholarships available, support for student attendance will be requested from the tribal communities. Each community sending a participant to camp is asked to provide a chaperone to accompany the student.

Time is running out - **Deadline for** applications is July 1, 2009

To apply:

♦ submit an application form

- supplying your contact information, tribal affiliation, educational and extracurricular background.
- ♦ One page essay why you would like to participate.
- ♦ Two letters of recommendation from a teacher or community leader.

Applications can be downloaded at:

www.esf.edu/nativepeoples/ NativeEarthApplication.pdf

For more information contact:

Robin Kimmerer 315-470-6785 rkimmer@esf.edu

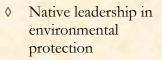
Bob Stevenson 613-930-3941 bstevenson@akwesasne.org

Students will be chosen based primarily on their application, their interest, motivation and match to program objectives. Students should also enjoy outdoor activities, meeting new people, have an interest in traditional culture, enjoy science and nature and be willing to experience rustic living conditions.

♦ Traditional Land Skills Indigenous Philosophies of caring for the environment

Native Earth Program Elements will Include:

- Wildlife Ecology
- Plant and tree identification
- Forest Ecology
- Medicinal and edible plants
- ♦ Interpretation of nature through art, writing and photography
- Meetings with tribal environmental professionals
- Aquatic Ecology
- Wetland Ecology

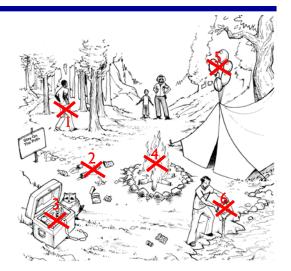


- Careers in the environment
- Canoeing, hiking and swimming
- Evening programs with elders and science professionals

Enjoying the Outdoors - Answers

How many did you find? Keep these things in mind and you'll help lessen your impact on our natural world.

- 1. Walking off the Path
 - 2. Littering
- 3. Leaving out food unattended
- 4. Leaving a fire burning unattended
 - 5. Helium balloons
- 6. Pouring soapy water into river or stream



OKTROUTYHN

Summer Word Search Puzzle

Can you find both the Maliseet and English words listed below in the puzzle? **Panahte** Airy Coqolahsiyan **Algae Ancestor** Kansushs Beaver Qapit Bee **Amuwes** Min Berry Blackfly Sipun Pesgahsuwehsok **Blossom** Brook Sipuwahkuk Brook trout Skuhtom Ogiton Canoe Cattail Pkuwahqiyasq **Qaqsoss** Fox **Hummingbird Alamossit** Mip Leaf Cossu Mosquito Isomegehs Osprey **Polam** Salmon Solstice **Apacuhse** Sunflower Kisuskan

Pearce Brook Project - UPDATE by Sharri Venno

Just to recap: last fall we began a project on Pearce Brook that will result in (1) a watershed based plan to restore habitat and improve water quality and (2) storm water management structures at several commercial locations along the Brook. This watershed project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Over several days last October, we held a number of public informational meetings asking people to talk about their issues, concerns, and values regarding Pearce Brook and its future. Their comments will be incorporated into the watershed-based plan. While attendance was small, those who participated were very engaged and we obtained a lot of good input.

This spring SASWCD sponsored a training session for HBMI and District staff and interested volunteers to survey storm water and erosion problems. Since then, we've been out in the field systematically surveying the residential portions of Pearce Brook in both rain and shine!

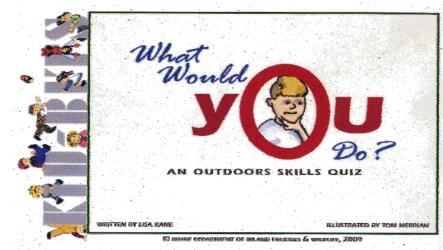
We are awaiting finalization of engineering plans for the Stormwater Management Structures and hope to have them sometime in June of 2009. We'll keep you updated through future articles in this newsletter. If you'd like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Sharri Venno at 532-4273 ext. 215 or via email at envplanner@maliseets.com.

Do you live in Pearce Brook Watershed?

What Would You Do?

This age old question can be applied to just about everything in life, but this time, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has produced an outdoors skills quiz for all ages. The quiz, published as an insert to this newsletter is a great teaching tool for youngsters and a great refresher for the rest of us.

Special thanks to the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for their permission to reprint this book.



Glowing Eyes (continued)

The side bar shows some of the most common eyeshine colors that can be seen at night. Take your flashlight and this list and head outside for some fun animal identification.

Humans do not have eyeshine because we lack a tapetum. We do get what is called "redeye". You have probably seen this in pictures. You get the redeye in pictures because the flash on the camera is so bright that it causes a reflection off the retina, which appears red due to the blood vessels nourishing the eye.

Even though we do not have a tapetum we can still see at night because we have rods in our eyes. Have you ever noticed that at night you can see better out of the corner of your eve then from the center? This is because the rods are concentrated more towards the outside of the eye and the cones are more towards the center. If you have never tried this, go outside at night, let your eves adjust and then look at things out of the corner of your eye and from the center and see which is clearer. Another trick for night walking is to cover your flashlight with red cellophane. This will prevent the light from destroying your night vision. Complete night vision takes about 30 minutes to develop and is destroyed the instant you look at a light source, so use a red filter or red cellophane on your flashlight.

Animals that display the brightest eyeshine have more rods present in the eye than cones. The rods are the light receptors in the eye whereas the cones are color receptors. This means that they see really well at night but are mostly colorblind. This

is a good trade off for nocturnal animals as you can only see color when there is light shining on it, so at night with the low light levels you cannot see colors anyway. Not all animals that have eyeshine are mammals; spiders, alligators, bull-frogs, sharks, boney fishes and some birds also have eyeshine.

A fun activity that you can try is one that will prove how hard it is to see color at night. Take some dark colors out of your box of crayons; colors like purple, blue, black and brown. Go outside into the dark, you really need to be away from light sources. Then on a piece of paper with each crayon write down which color you think each crayon is. For example, pick a crayon and if you think it is purple then you write purple on the paper. Once you have done this for each of the crayons, take the paper back inside and see how many you got right.

from **NatureKids N.B.**edition 10 - 2007





Common Eyeshine Colors

Cats = Green

Cats with blue eyes = Rec

Bear = Orange (Amber)

Cows = Yellow

Coyote = Green or Blue

Deer = Silver or White

Dogs = Green or Blue

Fox = Blue or Green

Horses = White

Owls = Red

Snowshoe Hare = Red

Raccoon = Whitish Green

Rats = Orange or Red

Sheep = Orange

Bullfrog = Green

Spiders = Silver or White



Tan Kahk Qaqsoss?

This spring the staff at the Administration Offices were treated to a mother fox and her 3 youngsters. They apparently had a den right near the opening of the tribe's nature trail The antics of the young kits brought many smiles

and peals of laughter. Just one more example of how fortunate we are to spend our daily lives surrounded by nature.





Enjoying the Outdoors

Whenever you visit parks or other wild places, remember that you are in the home of various plant and animal species. Our mere presence can have a direct impact on the species as well as their habitat. Always taking care to leave nothing but footprints is a great way to help protect our wild places.

Can you identify 6 things in the illustration that may be harmful to native species and their habitats?

See answer page 7

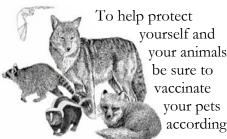
From:

Discover
Species at Risk in Atlantic Canada
©2006 Government of Canada

Rabies in Maine

Rabies is one of the oldest known disease in the world. Since the development of a vaccine to prevent and treat rabies, many lives have been saved

Wild animals that have hair or fur and produce milk are at risk to get or spread rabies. In Maine, as in other places, its it very important not to approach, handle, feed or relocate wildlife at any time. Animals with rabies tend to be very unpredictable and may bite, scratch or lose their fear of people. Even animals that appear healthy may have rabies or some other disease that could be transmitted to animals or people.





to your veterinarians recommendations. *Maine law requires all dogs* and cats be vaccinated for rabies.

To help reduce your exposure to rabies, be sure to avoid strange pets and notify your doctor immediately if you have been bitten or scratched by a stray or wild animal. If your pet was bitten or scratched by another animal contact your veterinarian immediately. The sooner you get treatment the more effective it will be.

Since 1994, Maine has seen rabies in the following animals:

- ♦ Raccoon
- ♦ Skunk
- ♦ Bat
- ♦ Fox
- ♦ Coyote
- ♦ Bobcat
- ♦ Fisher
- ♦ Beaver
- ♦ Woodchuck

For more information about rabies or to report a suspicious looking

animal:

Wild Animals

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Maine Warden Service 1-207-287-8000

Wild Animal Surveillance USDA Wildlife Services 1-866-4-USDA-WS

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 1-800-821-5821

or your local Town Office

World Rabies Day, September 28th is a worldwide effort to create awareness and promote education to reduce the 50,000 rabies related deaths every year



Source: USDA APHIS, Maine



Summer 2009

Setting High Standards by Cara O'Donnell

Fish egg masses tucked safely behind a rock. Dragonfly hatches at the waters edge. A baby fawn waiting in the grass. A turtle laying her eggs in gravel. All of these virtues of nature are spectacular to see when we are out-and-about in the watershed. Mostly we happen upon these things when we are out collecting water chemistry data, which is the Water

Resources program primary job during the summer months.

The chemistry data that we collect allow us to characterize the brooks and rivers and understand how healthy they may be, and if there is any strain to these systems. An

important tool for the Tribe to use is what we call 'Water Quality Standards' (WQS). These WQS set

limits that determine when the waters are impaired. For example, when dissolved oxygen falls below 7 ppm, (parts per million) we know that cold water fish begin to become stressed. Nutrients from local agriculture and various sources cause nasty algae growth (see photo at left). Currently there are no standard for nutrients in place.

Every state in the US, including the State of Maine, has set standards to protect their waters. However, the HBMI Water Program is currently in the process of creating a set of standards that are more protective than the current Maine standards, including nutrients, in an effort to protect cultural and traditional uses that require clean water. Much of the nature we all admire rely on clean rivers throughout their life stages. Osprey hunting food for its young, fox cubs playing outside their den, you catching trout for your dinner. All of us rely on clean, unpolluted waters. If adopted by the wider community, we believe the Water Quality Standards that the Tribe is currently developing will provide key limits for protection of the many uses of the Meduxnekeag River and its tributaries, now and in the future.



Welcome to the Digital Age

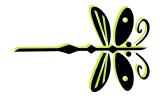
Now that June is here, an era has come to it's end. Good bye to rabbit ears and fuzzy picture hello crystal clear digital picture and sound. At least that's what was supposed to happen if you're lucky enough to live in an area with good digital signal. Many people chose to simply

buy a digital converter box, while others went out and bought a new digital TV set. If you haven't made the switch yet, there are a number of good websites available to help you with the transition.

www.antennaweb.org or www.dtvtransition.org or www.dtv.org

So now comes the big question, what do we do with all those old TVs? No, the answer isn't toss them in the river, toss them out on a deserted stretch of dirt road or use them for target practice. The answer is, recycle them at your local transfer station. When taken to the local transfer station you are helping to ensure that the hazardous materials in that old TV get handled properly and do not end up contaminating local land or water.

Locally Pine Tree Waste (207)532-4264 charges a small fee to recycle TVs and other household electronic items. (see list at right)



Pine Tree Waste Fees

as of June 2009

Television Sets

25" and smaller \$6.00 Over 25"/consoles - \$10

4' Flourescent bulbs - \$0.72 Computers

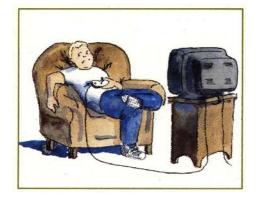
Monitors \$6.00 CPU \$4.00 Printer \$8.00 Keyboards \$2.00



You are out skiing and it's really cold. The wind is blowing and you feel like you are getting frostbite on your face!

THERE'S A SPOT THAT FEELS NUMB, AND LOOKS WAXY, WHITISH AND SWOLLEN. YOU SHOULD:

- A. Go inside as soon as possible
- B. Get as close to a fire as possible so you can thaw it out.
- C. Use lukewarm water to gently and slowly warm up the spot
- D. Pop the blister that appears.



12 Your eyes are blurry and your thumbs hurt from playing video games.

LOOKING AT THE TV IS BORING. YOU SHOULD:

- A. Take your dog for a walk outside in the fresh Maine air.
- B. Ride your bike.
- C. Go fishing.
- D. Any of these!!!

ANSWERS

8. A & D

9. A is illegal;

- 1. C 2. A & D
- 3. B C is illegal; B & D would be better choices
- 5. B&C
- 10. A

12. D

- 6. B & D 7. C
- 11. A & C

HOW DID YOU DO?

0 - 4 RIGHT ANSWERS: Think about a safety course in boating, snowmobiling or hunter safety: you'd learn a lot - and they're **FREE!**

www.maine,gov/ifw/education.safety/index.htm

4 - 8 RIGHT ANSWERS: You might survive in the outdoors, but maybe you'd like to go to conservation camp to learn more! Scholarships are available! visit: www.extension.umaine.edu/bryantpond/conservation_camp.asp or www.greenland point.com

8-12 RIGHT ANSWERS:

You are super outdoorswomen and outdoorsmen!



KIDBITS is produced quarterly as part of Maine Fish and Wildlife, the magazine of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

It is written by Lisa Kane, a DFI&W natural science educator with more than 20 years of experience teaching Maine's children about the state's fish and wildlife and the benefits of conservation.

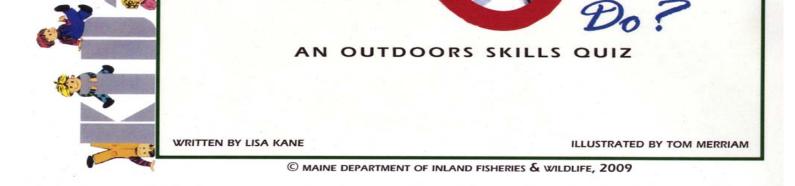
Illustrator Tom Merriam lives along Maine's coast and his heart is in Maine's woods. Tim's work has graced magazine covers, home walls and even automobiles. It is his artwork that is displayed on the Maine Sportsman License Plate.

This booklet was designed by IF & W Spokeswoman Deborah Turcotte.



Visit us at: www.mefishwildlife.com

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What

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Please Note: Some questions may have more than one answer!



Have Fun!

You go out for a short kayak paddle around the lake, wearing your PFD (life jacket). Suddenly, a big wave hits you from a passing power boat.

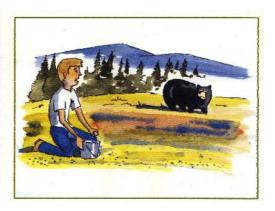
You have been camping out with your family and are now getting ready to leave. The campfire is still going strong from cooking a scrumptious pancake breakfast.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO PUT OUT THE CAMPFIRE?

- A. Let it just go out by itself
- B. Pour your last little bit of water on it and leave
- C. Haul a couple of buckets of water from the lake, drown the fire, mix the ashes with soil and see if it's cool enough to touch
- D. Throw a shovelful of dirt on it and leave

YOU FALL OUT OF THE KAYAK AND YOUR PADDLE FLOATS AWAY! WOULD YOU:

- A. Wave your hands and shout so you are rescued by Warden Service or another passing boat?
- B. Take off your life jacket and try to sit in it?
- C. Leave the kayak and start to swim for shore?
- D. Stay with your kayak and try to kick it towards shore?



You are out in a field picking blueberries and get separated from your friends.

SUDDENLY, A BLACK BEAR APPEARS EATING THE SAME BERRIES YOU ARE! **WOULD YOU:**

- A. Turn and run away as fast as you could?
- B. Make yourself 'BIG', wave your arms around and yell?
- C. Offer the bear your blueberries?
- D. Fall to the ground and play dead?



You and your dog are playing in the woods behind your house. The dog takes off after a realize you are both LOST.

YOU SORT OF KNOW YOUR WAY BACK, BUT ARE NOT REALLY SURE, AND IT'S GETTING DARK. DO YOU?

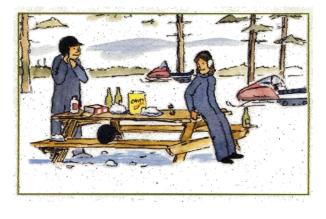
- A. Ask a raccoon for directions?
- B. Start yelling as loud as you can?
- C. Stay where you are and use your dog to help you stay warm?
- D. Just start running as fast as you can?



You find a baby robin in your backyard with just a few feathers on it.

THE MOTHER ROBIN IS CHIRPING AND FLYING AROUND IN THE TREES. **WOULD YOU:**

- A. Bring it indoors and try to give it some milk?
- B. Try to find the nest and put the chick back in?
- C. Bring it to your vet?
- D. Make sure your dog and cat are kept inside for awhile?



You stop for lunch while out snowmobiling with a group of friends.

YOU'VE FINISHED EATING AND YOU'RE READY TO GO. DO YOU:

- A. Bury the trash in the snow?
- B. Leave the leftovers out for animals to eat?
- C. Pack it all up and take it with you?
- D. Wait 'til you ride by some open water on the lake and throw it in there?



You see are really pretty flower at the park you are visiting.

YOU LIKE IT SO MUCH! DO YOU:

- A. Leave it alone so others can enjoy it, too?
- B. Pick it to take and show others?
- C. Step on it?
- D. Take a picture of it so you can try to identify it later?



squirrel. You follow him for quite a while and suddenly

YOU'RE RUNNING ALONG AND BREAK THROUGH THE ICE! DO YOU:

While ice fishing you take a short cut across some

soft ice to get to a flag and hopefully a BIG FISH.

- A. Turn around and try to swim to shore?
- B. Hoist your arms up onto the solid ice, and kick your feet so you are level and on your belly, try to work your way onto thicker ice?
- C. Thrash around as long as you can to stay warm?
- D. Yell for help?



You are out fishing and you catch your limit for the day.

YOU'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME BEING OUT ON THE WATER AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GO HOME. DO YOU:

- A. Keep on fishing, thinking you'll just release anything else you catch?
- B. Quit fishing and go for a canoe paddle around the
- C. Have fish fry for lunch, then catch your limit again?
- D. Just go swimming?



You see a turtle flipped over on its back on the road while you are bike riding.

IT LOOKS SO STRANGE THAT WAY. DO YOU:

- A. Help it turn back over?
- B. Kick it?
- C. Think its dead and just leave it there?
- D. Pick it up and bring it home to let go in your back yard?