

**HBMI Natural Resources
Department**



88 Bell Road
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Wishing you
Health and Happiness
in the New Year.
HBMI Natural Resources

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Cara O'Donnell
Rhonda Jewell Smart
Sharri Venno
Sue Young



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Puniw (It is Winter)
December 2008

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Susan Young - Editor

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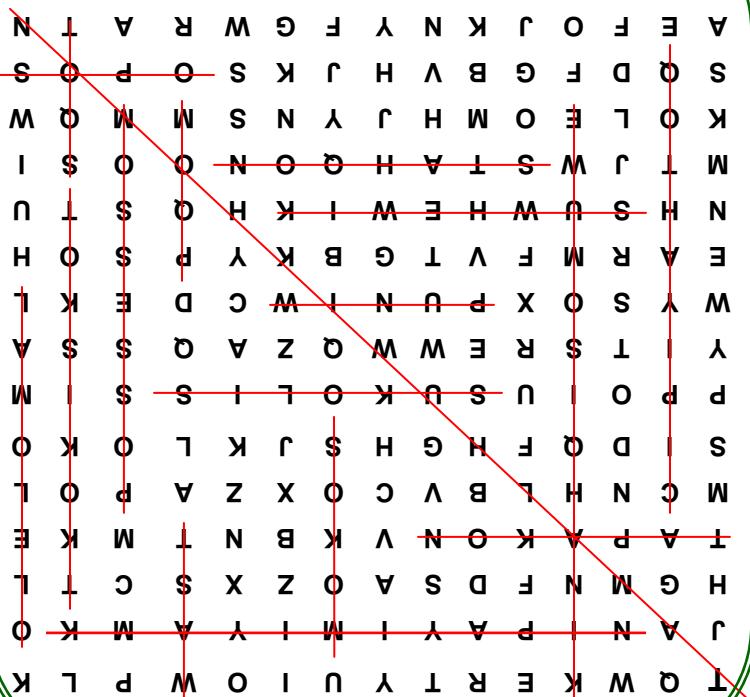
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Word Search Answers



HBMI Natural Resources Department



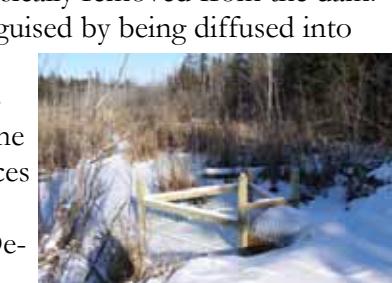
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Earth Speaker



Thoughtful Creatures, those beavers are ...

By Skip Lisle

The Natural Resources department recently oversaw the replacement of the old beaver deceivers located on the pond parcel. The new devices, installed by Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers International, will prevent beavers from directly clogging the road culverts for decades. However, this is not enough. They also act to sneak water away from the beavers. This is done by creating a permanent leak with a long solid pipe that has a wire-mesh filter on the end of it. For beavers, this makes for an unnatural and incongruous situation: the dam leak is physically removed from the dam.



The leak is also disguised by being diffused into the pipe over the broad, exterior surface of the filter. The wooden-frame fences around the culverts are called Beaver Deceivers (BDs). The circular filters on the end of the pipes are Round Fences. The green color on the fencing is epoxy to protect against the corrosive effects of acid in the water. The contractor who did the work, Skip Lisle, gained much of his early experience building BDs as an employee of the Penobscot Nation. The new devices replace a large, trapezoidal, "old style" BD that Skip built early in his career. The technology is continually changing and improving.



Above, Original "old style" beaver deceiver on tribal lands, Left, new beaver deceiver

Flow devices represent a fantastic method of protecting and improving wildlife habitats. Beavers are arguably the most ecologically valuable species in North America. The wetlands that they create, and continually mold and enhance, are vital habitats for hundreds of other species and also have numerous values for humans. As happened by the hundreds of thousands during the Fur Trade, beaver-created wetlands completely disappear when beavers are removed from ecosystems. And the only *effective* way to protect conflict points like road culverts without the use of flow devices is to permanently and thoroughly eliminate beavers from the general vicinity. Usually done with guns or traps, this approach is obviously devastating ecologically. It also leaves culverts naked and vulnerable, at least temporarily, to the next beaver that disperses into the area. It is never a lasting solution, but rather part of an endless, inefficient, and wasteful cycle of "boom and exhume" (shooting and digging).

Continued page 3

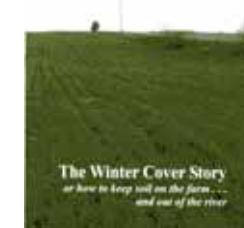
The Winter Cover Story . . .

We're pleased to announce that the Watershed Initiative Project can be labeled a resounding success.

Through a grant we received from the US EPA Watershed Initiative program in 2003, we were able to help local farmers, by way of a cost share program, to employ mulching and cover crop practices to help reduce the amount of top soil entering the Meduxnekeag River and its streams and tributaries.

In conjunction with the Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District (SASWCD), Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (MeDEP), Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) we were able to help farmers make some minor changes in their way of farming that

yielded significant results in terms of the amount of topsoil kept out of the river. We had 32 local farms participate in the program. Though we got off to a bit of a slow start, saving only 6 dump trucks loads of farm soil in the first year, we ultimately kept a total 263 dump truck loads of 3,958 tons of soil from farmland out of the Meduxnekeag River!



We've printed a full color publication entitled "The Winter Cover Story or how to keep soil on the farm . . . and out of the river" highlighting this project along with the participating farmers. If you'd like a copy of this booklet, contact Sue Young at 532-4273 ext 202.



Maliseet Holiday Word Search

Find The
Maliseet Words
↓

Antler
Bobsled
Candy
Christmas
Coal
Cold Day
Cross (crucifix)
Decorate
Fir
Fire
Gift
Ice
Snow
Star
Toboggan
Tree
Winter

Kinahqisomuwe
Suwhewik
Sukolis
Nipayimiyamk
Mokos
Tkokiskot
Cipiyahtoq
T'amalhuwikhomon
Stahqon
Sqot
Olelolam
Pqom
Wast
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Tapakon
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Beavers (continued)



Another not-so-effective, non-lethal strategy is to constantly remove beaver dams from culverts either by hand or with heavy equipment. When this is not done on a routine basis, then road reconstruction costs can be added to the already significant maintenance burden.

Despite the initial cost, the use of high quality flow devices, which will last decades, is a far more economical and "ecological" strategy than any others. By controlling beaver behavior non-lethally, flow devices protect a remarkable native species, their phenomenal habitats, and the budgets of taxpayers and management entities alike. They are an excellent example of thoughtful, gentle stewardship of the land.

Getting the Most Heat from Firewood



As many of you know, firewood is sold by the cord. But just what is a cord? It is a standard calculation for firewood that measures 4' wide x 8' long x 4' high or any measurement totaling 128 cubic feet.

The heavier wood is when dry, the greater heat value will be. Green wood has a much lower heating capacity

than dry wood because some of the heat from the wood is wasted drying out the moisture. Burning wet or "green" wood, results in a 20% loss in heat.

Seasoning to remove much of the water is desirable for maximum heat output. Generally softwood that has been split and stacked to dry for at least 6 months qualifies as being seasoned, for hardwoods allow 1 year. Cracks in the ends of the wood do not always signal seasoned wood. One trick to test for dryness is to hit two



Here's an easy-to-make pine cone Christmas Tree. Use it as a tree ornament or a Christmas decoration. This is a simple craft that even young children can help make.

For each Pine Cone Christmas Tree you will need:

- A large, open pine cone (pick one that is tree-shaped and stands upright easily)
- Glitter
- A few cotton balls
- White glue (like Elmer's)
- Dental floss and a needle
- Small beads
- A small bow or star to top off your little tree

pieces of wood together; if dry, the wood will make a ringing sound, if still green, it will be more of a thud. Wood should always be kept as dry as possible. Wood, although "dry" or "seasoned" will still absorb moisture from the air and raise its moisture content. Wet wood creates a lot of smoke and provides much less useful heat.

Due to the density of softwoods, they generate about half the heat of hardwoods. One would need twice the volume of softwood to gain the heat generated by a load of hardwood.

Burning wet wood also increases the production of creosote, a black tarry substance that coats the interiors of stove pipes and chimneys. Burning hot fires helps reduce the amount of creosote that accumulates in your pipes and chimney.

Some of the best hardwood choices for wood in this area include oak, maple, and ash. Remember, if you choose to burn scrap wood in your fireplace or woodstove, be sure to avoid any wood that has been painted, stained or pressure treated to avoid toxic fumes.

For more information check out "Burning Firewood for Maximum Efficiency" at www.grahamandrews.com/burning_firewood.htm

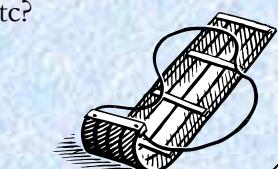
bead with a knot. Wrap the beads around the pinecone and glue them to the tree.

Top off your tree with a small bow or other decoration.

Let your tree dry and hang from your Christmas tree.

Did you know?

The English word toboggan comes from the Maliseet (and other related Wabanaki and Algonquian languages) word 'tapakon', a means of transportation - sled, car, wagon etc?





Maqiyahntine 'ciw Metaksonikewiyik

Let us gather in celebration of the People of the Meduxnekeag

Saturday September 20, 2008



Let us gather in celebration of the
People of the Meduxnekeag

Recognition Day
September 20, 2008