

HBMI Natural Resources Department Natural Resources Department

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Toqaqiw (*It is Autumn*)

Fall 2018

Clarissa Sabattis - Tribal Chief
Susan Young - Editor

This newsletter is printed on
recycled paper



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HBMI Natural Resources Department



Skitkomiq Nutacomit Earth Speaker



Skitkomiq 2018 by Jenna Matthews

What another quick and busy summer this has been for us here in Water Resources! This year we were able to bring back our week long youth science camp, Skitkomiq, and we certainly came back with a bang! This year marked our largest participation to date and we received so much positive feedback from the youth, our presenters, our amazing team of

volunteers and our special guests who joined us from our Sister Nation in Tobique!

We kicked off the week with an awesome lesson from Ursula Bear about the 4 sacred medicines and the kids were able to make and take home their own jar of bear grease.

Next up we had Ben Naumann, a fisheries biologist from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) who, according to our youth survey, gave one of the most interesting presentations of the day about the different fish species that live in the Meduxnekeag River. He even brought frozen fish for the kids to interact with!

We gathered at the Elder Center and listened to traditional stories told by Roger Paul. He also taught everyone how to count to 10 in Maliseet and challenged the kids to a game of Go Fish! where the only rule was, no speaking English! It was wonderful to hear so many gathered together speaking in our language.

We rounded out the day at Meduxnekeag (Drews) Lake for a lesson in canoe safety from Chris Phillips and of course SWIMMING! which was the obvious high light of the day.

Day 2 took us to our lands at the mouth of Big Brook, where we met up with Dave Putnam from the University of Maine at Presque Isle to take part in a real life archeological dig. While not much was found the kids still enjoyed digging in the dirt! In the afternoon, Dena Winslow, from the Aroostook Band of Micmac's gave a presentation on how climate change is causing significant increases in tick infestations and tick born illnesses in Maine and the devastating effects they're having on our moose and deer populations. Dena provided the kids with some ways to safeguard themselves against tick bites and what to do if you happen to get bitten.

Continued page 7

did you know?

Raking your leaves destroys ecosystems. Fallen leaves create a natural layer that butterflies, moths, salamanders, chipmunks, box turtles, toads, shrews, worms, and other species rely on for food and shelter.

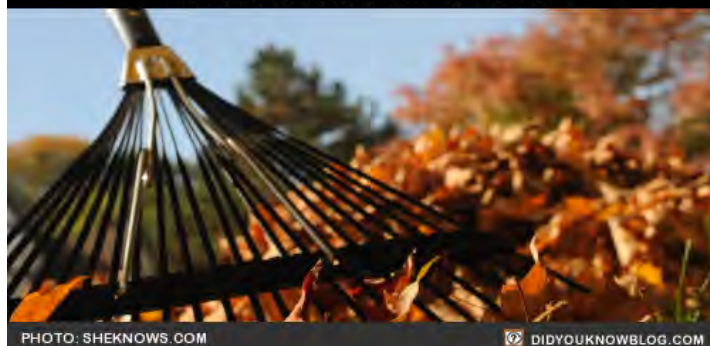
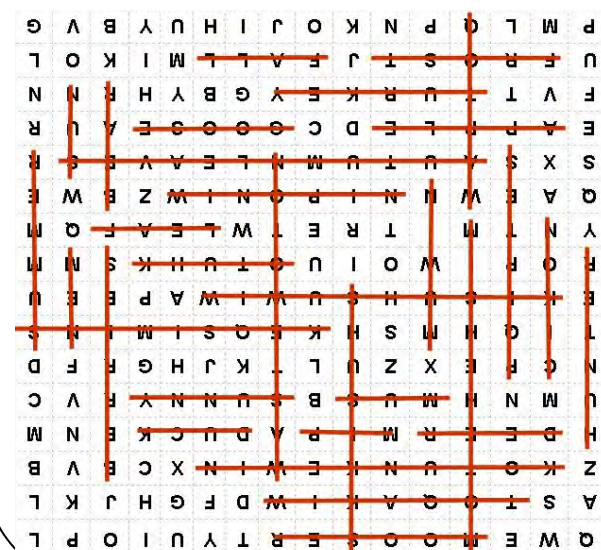


PHOTO: SHEKNOWS.COM

DIDYOUKNOWBLOG.COM

Word Search Answers



Salmon found in the Meduxnekeag River!!

Are there salmon in the Meduxnekeag River? **Yes!** Small salmon parr have found by electro-fishing crews in Marven Brook, which is located on the Canadian side of the border. They have been found there over the past couple decades by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada, though numbers and locations where they are found are extremely low, compared to previous years.

The Water Resources (WR) staff accompanied DFO and Woodstock First Nation



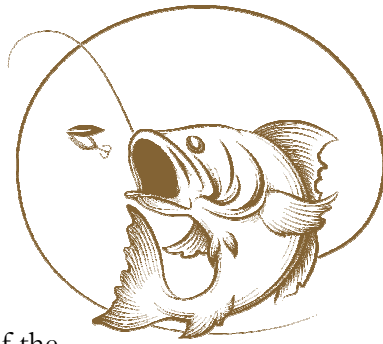
(Above) Electrofishing on Marven Brook
(Right) Cara O'Donnell measuring parr

Fisheries staff to Marven Brook. There we took tissue samples to be sent to a lab to determine the genetics of the salmon stock remaining in the Meduxnekeag River.

In addition to tissue sampling, HBMI staff took 40 water samples throughout the Meduxnekeag River and its tributaries in August. These water samples were sent to the University of Maine Orono to detect salmon DNA. This will confirm whether there are also salmon on our side of the border. Results are expected in late September. If the presence of salmon is detected in the Meduxnekeag system on the US side, electro-fishing will be conducted at those sites, so that tissue samples can be collected and analyzed to determine whether land locked or Atlantic salmon were detected, and for other genetic purposes.



Salmon parr presence indicates that adult salmon were in the Meduxnekeag system within the past few years, which brings hope that salmon can be restored in more plentiful numbers. We were also fascinated and discouraged to find rainbow trout, an invasive species, in Marven Brook. This is the first confirmation of rainbows within the system.



Fall Equinox - Youth Fast and Ceremony by Cara O'Donnell



Kuli kiseht! Congratulations to the five youth that joined together on the fall Equinox September 22nd - 23rd. They participated in sweat-lodge ceremonies and learned the teachings associated with their first 1 day fast. Participating this year were Lilly Moulton, Austin Lindsay, Kameron Lindsay, Keenan Lindsay and Neve O'Donnell. On completion they were given spirit names by Imelda Perley.

They were a strong crew, and tented outdoors at the elders center during the fast, despite night time low temperatures of 27 degrees, there were no complaints. We were blessed with a bright night sky with a nearly full moon, very calm air, and woke up to a blue sky and the warmth of the sun. A turkey vulture flew over to check us out as we set up. We also saw two eagles fly over, one of which was holding a fish in its grasp! We are proud of these youth and would like to thank our helpers Wambli and



Tawoma Martinez and Dolores Crofton-MacDonald who stepped in to lead the fast.

Stay tuned for the next opportunity to participate, or call Sue Young or Cara O'Donnell for more details. 207-532-4273.

Photo at left:

Front row: Tawoma Martinez, Neve O'Donnell, Dolores Crofton- MacDonald

Middle row: Wambli Martinez, Jacob Carmichael, Lilly Moulton Austin Lindsay, Keenan Lindsay

Back row: Roger Flewelling, Samantha Moulton, Kameron Lindsay, David Lindsay

Maliseet Nation Restoring Sea-Run Fish (continued)



Due to the efforts of the Tribe's Natural Resources Department and funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians have also improved 2 miles of the Meduxnekeag Main Stem, over 1 mile of the North Branch, and 100 feet of Pearce Brook, an upstream tributary and fishing location. HBMI has also placed large boulders and trees within the river system to replicate natural habitat structures that would have been in the river before the timber industry removed them in Maine.



The goal of placing pooling structures is to provide resting spots for spawning fish swimming upstream the Meduxnekeag River. Sharri Venno imagines the new habitat structures will help narrow and deepen the stream like it was naturally. Photo Credit: Zintkala Eiring



The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians have been passionate advocates for the conservation of native fish, and have been heavily involved in the protection and recovery of sea-run fish. Several agencies have partnered with Maliseet Tribes through the signatures of several U.S. Federal Agencies (including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Canadian Departments on the "Welastekw River Interim Statement of Cooperation"

The document may be viewed at:

<https://usfwnortheast.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/final-signed-statement-of-cooperation-2017.pdf>

Photo Credit: Zintkala Eiring

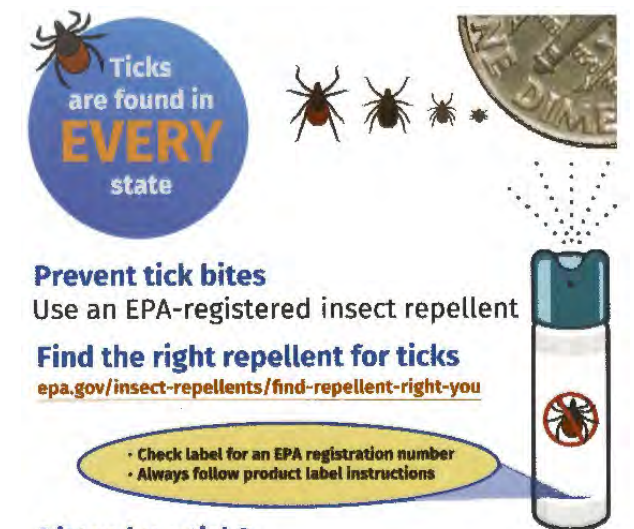
The conservation story of the Atlantic Salmon is one of adaptability, perseverance, and pure passion and cultural attachment by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Tribe. Maliseet Nations have been sustainably harvesting sea-run fish for thousands of years. And today, they are at the heart of returning them to the Meduxnekeag River.

The Fish Enhancement Project was made possible by the dedication and efforts of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Tribal Wildlife Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Grants are funded through an annual appropriation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For more information on the program, please view this website:

<https://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html>

This blog can be seen in it's original posting at:

<https://usfwnortheast.wordpress.com/2017/11/08/the-maliseet-nation-restoring-sea-run-fish-in-the-beautiful-flowing-river/>



Bitten by a tick?

- Remove tick as soon as possible
- Check for ticks daily
- Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull upward
- Clean the bite with soap and water

Sick with fever, aches, or a rash?
See your healthcare provider



cdc.gov/ticks



epa.gov/insect-repellents

Toqaqi Kisuhs

Toqaqi kosqehsuhs kisehtag mipiyil poneqiyewiwol. Yuttol pili toqaqisqehsisol tiyal: “Komac koti tkeyu, nit olu psite keq kiskihkasik kmaqenomuniya, skoniminol tan te elikok kmonuwehkaniya, weci kiskihkasik apc likotok. Skicinuwi ‘pisun kmokonomuniya naka kispatuniya weci kisuwekasik weckuwikotok. Kispahsaniya nomehsuwok, pehkikicik ote, weci weckuwilok wolihpultiyeq psite mawiw. Tan eci apatapasihit kotunkewinuwok, psite, knokka kwolaniya kweyossisomuwak, kat tehpu wiyusumuwa. Musa keq qasahkasik tan yut keluwak, talu ketehp motekon, skonisol, wipitol, soqonol, naka wituwol. Psitehc nit kisuwekasu weckuwikotok. Psitehc wenik wolaqiwik wiwnopultuwok etoli wolamkolek. Nitte kisuwehkiyeq sqot, kuli kassuwenomuniya weci apc likotok kisapemeq toqakiwi nipawset peneqetaq mipiyil.”

Grandmother Autumn



Grandmother Autumn, the one who makes the leaves fall, was teaching young autumn girl. Grandmother Autumn told the young girl: “It is going to be cold, it is time to harvest the gardens and to gather many seeds so that they may be planted for next year. Gather traditional medicines and dry them for use in the coming year. Dry the fish when you clean them so that you may enjoy them at the feasts. When the hunters have returned with their catch, honor the catch and use all of the animal, not just the meat. You may use the skin, bones, teeth, tails and whiskers. All of it may be used throughout the year. In the evenings, enjoy the gift of a warm fire when family and friends gather. After you have enjoyed the warmth of the fire, be sure to extinguish the gift of fire so that you may enjoy another Moon of Grandmother Autumn, the one who makes the leaves fall.”

Source: Passamaquoddy Bilingual Program



Skitkomiq 2018 from page 4

All in all it was a great week with great weather and great kids! On behalf of all the staff here in the Natural Resources Department, I'd like send out the biggest thank-yous to: our presenters, our volunteers and chaperones, Rod Polchies in HBMI's maintenance department for tables and chairs and tents and keys and probably a million other things, Dayna Boyce and Millie Hanning for the use of your “Home” (the Elders Center) and for keeping all 50+ of us fed delicious home cooked meals. Also the HBMI Youth staff for all your help and the use of your beautiful new facility. I would also like to personally thank my colleagues for pulling this all together and making Skitkomiq 2018 such a huge success! Woliwon!



Photos: (above)
Sweat lodge teachings
with Norm Bernard

(right) Canoe fun

The Maliseet Nation Restoring Sea-Run Fish in the Beautiful Flowing River by Jr. USFWS Native American Liaison Zintkala Eiring

This blog is the second in a series written by Jr. Native American Liaison Zintkala Eiring to highlight our Tribal partners and the work they are doing to manage wildlife populations - in honor of National Native American Heritage Month. (November 8, 2017)

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians are known by several names: “Wolastoqeyiyik”, the “People of the Beautiful, Flowing River” or the “Metahksonikewiyik”, the “People of the Meduxnekeag River”. The Houlton Band are ancestrally committed to conserving the native fish with whom they share their home in northern Maine. Traditionally, the Houlton Band crafted birch bark canoes to travel during spring, the spawning season for sea-run fish, within Saint John’s Watershed, known as “Wolastoq” to the Maliseet. Historically, Maliseet Native Americans occupied most of the eastern border between the U.S. and Canada. In fact, the Jay Treaty of 1794 established free border crossing for Maliseet people between the two countries. Currently, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal trust land is near the town of Houlton, Maine.



The sea-run fish of the Meduxnekeag are traditionally significant to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, but due to several threats, the Atlantic salmon is now defined as an “at risk” species in the United States. In fact, the species is listed as Endangered within the Gulf of Maine’s Distinct Population Segment (photo by Zintkala Eiring www.fws.gov/fisheries/fishguide/atlantic_salmon.html)

One of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians’ effort toward protecting their traditional fish, is to improve fish passage enhancement around culverts in tributaries of the Meduxnekeag River, which is named for being “rocky at its mouth”. This project is funded by Tribal Wildlife Grant, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

One of the individuals leading this effort is, Sharri Venno, the Environmental Planner for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. She mentioned several impairments that are encountered by the Atlantic salmon and other native fish that travel and shelter within the Meduxnekeag River. For example, up until the 1970’s, the Meduxnekeag riverbed was used to transport logged trees down the river to for lumber and timber-related industries. This resulted in an unnatural habitat for spawning fish, with few resting sites and little habitat to escape predation. Additionally, the State of Maine still identifies the presence of DDT and mercury in Maine’s inland waters. Furthermore, the Mactaquac dam in Fredericton, New Brunswick, built in 1968, creates a major obstacle for spawning, migratory fish. Due in part to several consultations with Tribal Nations, the dam company agreed to dedicate \$100 million to fish passage. The Houlton Band and other Maliseet First Nations continue to increase awareness about fish being trapped within the dam’s head-pond and the difficulty of upstream passage for fish. Currently, fish have to be captured below the head-pond and trucked upstream to artificially complete their sea-run fish passage, terming the phrase “trap and truck” for spawning fish.



Recently, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Natural Resource staff learned that Atlantic salmon were found during a Canadian survey in Marvin Brook, North Branch, and Hagerman Brook, which are all segments of the Meduxnekeag River near their Tribal trust land. Marvin Brook was the most successful, with 16 fry and 2 parr sampled in August 2016, using electrofishing equipment, according to Cara O’Donnell. The HBMI’s next project goal is to use Environmental DNA (eDNA) to have a greater understanding of the presence/absence of Atlantic salmon and other aquatic species in the Watershed, which is being done in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Pictured here: Atlantic salmon. Photo Credit: USFWS, Greg Thompson

Skitkomiq 2018 from page 1

Our last presenter of the day was our very own Cara O'Donnell! Through the use of a watershed model, she showed how pollutants from streets, farm fields and our homes enter different water bodies during a rainstorm and causing harm to the ecosystem. Sam St. John also took the kids to downtown Houlton to paint storm drains with the message “Drains to River” to help prevent people from pouring chemicals into these drains.

Days 3 and 4 were led by Norm Bernard who gave the kids an opportunity to help construct a sweatlodge located at the Elder Center, from the ground up. Norm guided them through the significance of each piece that goes into the lodge and told traditional stories throughout the day. Once the lodge was complete, most of the kids got to participate in one of their very first sweatlodge ceremonies alongside our Tribal Chief! I have to admit, when that door opened up after the first round and they all came filing out, it was Such an amazing sight to see all those kids and the look of accomplishment on their faces!

Continued on page 6

Photos: (clockwise)

- 1. Roger Paul telling stories in Maliseet
- 2. Canoe safety and fun!
- 3. Medicines with Ursula Bear
- 4. Playing GO Fish! in Maliseet
- 5. More Canoe fun
- 6. Fisheries fun by the river
- 7. Finding bugs on the rocks
- 8. Archaeology with Dave Putnam
- 9. Preparing for the sweatlodge with Chief Sabattis
- 10. Making sumac lemonade
- 11. Building a sweatlodge with Norm Bernard



Weather Station Training by Sam St. John



HBMI Water Resources Technician Sam St. John (photo left) attended a training on the Pamunkey Reservation in King William, Virginia. For two days, members of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other tribal representatives were instructed on the

proper installation of weather-monitoring stations awarded by the Soil Climate Analysis Network.

In the near future, HBMI will have a new weather station installed on tribal lands that is capable of monitoring wind speed and direction, rainfall amount, solar radiation, air temperature, humidity, soil moisture and temperature. Our station will be part of a large network of stations all over the country that will

capture vital weather data and monitoring our rapidly changing climate.

This new weather station (see photo right) will replace our existing weather station that went on line back in the late 1990s. It was part of the network of weather stations in Aroostook County that helped the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service monitor conditions for blight in the County’s potato crop. Our data helped the extension service work with local farmers to manage their crops. That program has since ended, but we still maintain our weather station here in the department.

Our current weather can be found at:

www.wunderground.com/weather/us/me/littleton/KMELITTL4



Word Search Puzzle



Find the English & Maliseet in the Puzzle

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| Apple | Cikon |
| Berries | Keqsimins |
| Sunny | Kisuhs |
| Sunny | Kisuhsuwiw |
| Hunter | Kotunkewin |
| Leaf | Mip |
| Duck | Motehehsim |
| Moose | Mus |
| Turkey | Nem |
| Summer | Niponiw |
| Deer | Otuhk |
| Autumn leaves | Pqiptes |
| Fall | Toqakiw |
| Goose | Waptoq |
| Frost | Wastewoton |

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