

Things to Do Outdoors

ADDISON — 16th annual Beth C. Wright Walk For Life, Saturday, May 21, Addison Town Hall, 334 Water St. Registration, 8 a.m.; walk, 10 a.m. 664-0339 or info@bethwright-cancercenter.org.

BANGOR — Paws on the Kenduskeag, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, Kenduskeag Stream Trail, 100 Franklin St., by Friends of the Lower Kenduskeag Stream. Toys, supplies and money collected at trail-head for Bangor Humane Society. For information, visit Kenduskeag Stream Trail on Facebook.

BRADLEY — Blackman Stream Alewife Cross County Logging Road Run of 3.8 miles, 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 21, Maine Logging Museum, 686 Government Road. Free T-shirts given to first 50 runners. \$10 students, \$15 others; \$15 students, \$20 others day of the race. Early registration at maineforest-andloggingmuseum.org/programs-2. Also World Fish Migration Day activities. No pets allowed on the grounds. Bring a picnic lunch.

EAST MACHIAS — Downeast Salmon Federation fourth annual Smolt Bolt and Bloater Bash, Saturday, May 21. Registration, 8 a.m. Race, 10 a.m. Advance registration \$15 at East Machias Aquatic Research Center, 13 Willow St., \$20 day of the event. Kyle Winslow, Downeast Salmon Feder-

ation, 263-7072 or kyle@mainesalmonrivers.org.

GRAND LAKE STREAM — Downeast Lakes Land Trust and Grand Lake Stream ATV Club second annual Community and Forest Clean-Up 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 21. Meet at Grand Lake Stream School Building, 15 Water St., to receive trash bags and get area assignment. Participants will be treated to a hearty lunch of soup, served in handmade souvenir bowls. Open to all. To register in advance, 796-2100 or cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

HINCKLEY — Wildflower walk, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, L.C. Bates Museum, 14 Easler Road. Learn ID tricks you can use on walks and hikes in your own neighborhood. 238-4250, lcbates@gwh.org or gwh.org/lcbates.

MACHIAS — Birding and nature walks, 8-10 a.m. and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 21, Middle River Park, Kilton Lane. Part of the "Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact" series of community events.

MARIAVILLE — Professors Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour leading a tour of their woodlot, Black's Grove Tree Farm, noon Saturday, May 21. To register and obtain directions, Si Balch, 578-1003, Larry Beauregard, 989-6158 or redspruce@myfairpoint.net.

ORLAND — The fifth annual gun show sponsored by the Buck's

Mills Rod and Gun Club, will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 14, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at Orland Community Center, 21 School House Road. Admission \$5; free for those under age 15 if accompanied by an adult. Snacks, treats, drinks available from kitchen. Contact Isaac Dorr at 944-8036.

SEARSPORT — Discover the trails of Searsport, hosted by Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Friends of Sears Island and Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 14. Bird walk Cloe Chunn of BBWC 7 a.m., meeting at the gate to Sears Island. Hosting organizations' brief overviews of their work, 9-10 a.m. Union Hall in downtown Searsport. Two walks: Long Cove Headwaters Preserve or Sears Island, 10:30-11:30 a.m. or noon-1 p.m. with naturalist Ron Harrell at Long Cove and naturalists Cloe Chunn and Aleta McKeage at Sears Island. Call Alden Mead at Coastal Mountains Land Trust at 236-7091 to sign up.

WHITING — Orange River Paddle event, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at the river. Part of "Alewives: Small Fish, Big Impact" series of community events.. Free. Includes film screenings, book discussions, story hours, art projects, panel discussion and more.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

Holyoke

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sons on deer and moose, shooting from or having a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, and hunting while one's license is under revocation.

Felonies? No. Minor crimes? Hardly. Consider: As Woodard points out, just 2 percent of the cases that the wardens submit for prosecution each year are felonies.

And few, among those other cases, rise to the level of charges that the Allagash investigation resulted in.

The fact is, some folks who don't spend much time thinking about the state's fish and wildlife resources might agree with the story's assertion, and figure it's not a big deal if a few poachers shoot too many moose or deer ... or even do it at night, or while drinking.

For those of us who do spend time in the woods, and who try our best to be ethical and law-abiding when we're out there, crimes like that are a very, very big deal, whether they rise to the felony level or not. We're not poachers. We're not lawbreakers. And we tend to resent those who are because they give law-abiding hunters a bad name.

When people are breaking wildlife laws habitually

(as the Maine Warden Service asserts was the case), taking the necessary steps to make that killing stop is not just acceptable. It's essential.

Fish and wildlife laws exist to protect natural resources that belong to all of the people of Maine, and to aid in the management of a variety of species. They're there to ensure that those resources aren't over used, over harvested or otherwise abused. Sadly, in many cases, the acts of humans pose the biggest threat to fish and game, and the habitat they rely upon for survival.

Some folks in Allagash told Woodard that the arrival of the wardens frightened them, and that they thought the wardens showed up with more firepower than was necessary. Others said they feared the public would see Allagash residents as lawbreakers, but they said some actions that might not occur in other, more populated places — driving the backroads while consuming a cooler full of beer, for instance — are commonplace.

Having spent a fair bit of time in Allagash, I can vouch for one of Woodard's assertions: The people I've met there have treated me wonderfully and have been

some of nicest, most gracious people I've ever met. The fact that a few people in this small town were convicted of fish and wildlife crimes shouldn't reflect on the good folks of Allagash.

Instead, it should reflect upon those who were convicted.

Some said that the undercover warden tricked them into committing acts they wouldn't otherwise have committed.

Nonsense.

Think about it: How much cajoling would it take for you, as a sensible, newspaper-reading, hunter, to decide to stick a gun out the window of a pickup and blast a moose in the middle of the night? And how likely would you be to then leave that animal in the woods, as the Maine Warden Service says happened at least once in Allagash?

For most of us, there's no amount of cajoling or coaxing that would convince us to participate in such acts.

Or, for that matter, in most of the other acts that resulted in the 75 convictions.

John Holyoke can be reached at jholyoke@bangordailynews.com or 990-8214. Follow him on Twitter: @JohnHolyoke.

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