

# Hike

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roots and rocky areas, as well as a couple narrow bog bridges. The trail ends at a park road near the parking area at Dunn Point.

Moosehead Lake fills a basin formed by a glacier and covers an area of 117 square miles, according to the Lily Bay State Park brochure offered at the park entrance station. The lake is filled with togue, brook trout and land-locked salmon.

The Moosehead region is abundant in wildlife, including some of the state's most iconic mammals — black bear, moose and deer. Be careful while driving in the area, as moose- and deer-vehicle collisions are common.

On the edge of the North Woods, the Moosehead region has served as a special, seemingly remote spot for vacationers and outdoor enthusiasts since the mid-1800s. In addition to the scenic Moosehead Lake, the region contains a number of impressive mountains that are popular for hiking, and the famous Appalachian Trail runs through the forest just east of the lake.

Dogs are permitted in the Lily Bay State Park if on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times. Dogs are not permitted on the beach or inside the “comfort station,” which is a wheelchair accessible building in the park that in-



AILINN SARNACKI | BDN

Caleb DiDonato, 3, of Ellsworth hikes in front of his family on the smooth walking trail that traces the shore of Moose-head Lake in Lily Bay State Park. The DiDonato family is on a mission to visit all 48 of Maine's state parks and historic sites on the Maine State Parks Passport, collecting stamps along the way. They collected their 11th stamp at Lily Bay State Park on Saturday.

cludes toilets, showers, baby changing stations and outdoor sinks for washing dishes.

For daytime users, the park is open 9 a.m. to sunset daily from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. In the winter, park gates are

closed, but visitors are welcome to park outside the gate and engage in park activities. About 5 miles of trails and park roads are groomed for cross-country skiing, and Moosehead Lake is a popular spot for ice fishing.

Park admission varies

from free to \$6, depending on the visitor's age and residency. For more information, visit [maine.gov/lilybay](http://maine.gov/lilybay) or call the park at 695-2700.

**Personal note:** At the entrance booth of Lily Bay State Park, a woman stepped out to collect admission — my hus-

band and I each paid \$4 — and handed us a park brochure, which included a simple map of campgrounds and the park's hiking trail. We were exploring the park for the day, we told her. She directed us to park at Dunn Point, then reminded us that our dog needed to be kept on leash, and kindly advised that he might want to go swimming at the boat landing. We thanked her and continued on our way.

I'd heard Lily Bay State Park was a beautiful place to camp, but I still was surprised by the quality and seclusion of the campsites, many of which were separated by forest and located close to the shore of the lake. I also was taken aback by the scenic view from the beach — the lake, dotted with tiny isles, and beyond, layers of mountains.

The park's trail — which is the epitome of family friendly — was infested with cute, red squirrels, which pestered our dog, Oreo, to no end as they chased each other through the trees. At a particularly beautiful viewpoint along the trail, we sat down on the damp earth and ate lunch while listening to a loon's eerie call.

We'd prepared to be assaulted by black flies that day, but to our surprise, we didn't even need to put on insect repellent. Perhaps it was too early in the year for them. Or maybe the fresh breeze off the lake was enough to keep them at bay. Whatever the reason, we were happy to

enjoy the warm, sunny day without being bitten by what's been referred to as “Maine's state bird” on many T-shirts and bumper stickers.

We almost went the entire hike without seeing another soul, but near the end of our walk, we came across a family of five from Ellsworth. Laura and Kevin DiDonato were exploring the park with their sons, Noah, 9, Owen, 6, and Caleb, 3. All three boys appeared to be in high spirits and told me they'd just seen two white-tailed deer. The DiDonato family was on a mission to fill their Maine State Parks Passport, which includes 48 state parks and historic sites.

At each location the DiDonatos visit, they locate the “passport station,” where they find a special stamp with which to stamp their passport, proving that they've visited the park. Lily Bay State Park was their 11th stamp.

The Maine State Passport Program, run by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Public Lands, includes small prizes for collecting different amounts of stamps, with the grand prize for 48 stamps being a season pass to Maine state parks and historic sites. For more information, visit [maine.gov/dacf/parks](http://maine.gov/dacf/parks).

For more of Aislinn Sarnacki's adventures, visit her blog at [actoutwithaislinn.bangordailynews.com](http://actoutwithaislinn.bangordailynews.com). Follow her on Twitter: @lminhikegirl.



JIM THORNE

A bear eats black oil sunflower seeds at a feeder in Jim Thorne's backyard in Carmel.

# Holyoke

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even as he spoke to it, whistled at it and tried to convince it to leave.

The video begins with Thorne's voice. “We think we have a bear at our feeder,” he says. “Either that, or he's a big squirrel.”

Thorne's interaction with the bear is worth watching — it's hilarious. You can find it on my blog: [outthere.bangordailynews.com](http://outthere.bangordailynews.com).

Eventually, abruptly, it did decide to exit.

“The bear started looking up in the backyard. Being a hunter, I've seen doe [deer] do that, and a buck comes in. I've seen cow moose do that, and then the bull comes in,” Thorne said. “[The bear] just ran into the woods. I said, ‘Something's up.’ I looked up and [another bear] came hobbling across the backyard. I thought the first one was big.”

But the second bear was bigger.

Thorne said he's always heard the way to judge a bear's size is by looking at its ears. If the ears look small on a bear's head, that simply means the bear is big. This pair of bears each had tiny-looking ears. Thorne thought they weighed 300 pounds or more.

Thorne posted his video on Facebook, and several friends commented on the post.

Around noontime Wednesday, he opened his email inbox and saw a message that made him chuckle. It was a news release from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife cautioning Mainers about nuisance bears. Among the suggestions that the DIF&W always makes: Take in your bird feeders so that bears won't stop by for an easy snack.

“I'm not putting out any bird seed for a few days,” Thorne said. “We like watching the birds.”

Though he had fun shoot-

ing the videos, seeing his first two bears on the property in 20 years has taken a bit of a toll, he said.

“That was scary. I said to my wife, ‘You want to go get the paper?’” Thorne said. “We've got a long driveway that goes out to the road through the woods.”

Her reply was predictable, Thorne said.

“She said, ‘I am not going out to get the paper ever again,’” he said with a laugh.

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# Authorities looking for person who shot eagle

BY RYAN MCLAUGHLIN  
BDN STAFF

AUGUSTA — Authorities are seeking the public's help in the investigation of a fatal shooting of a bald eagle earlier this spring.

Maine Warden Service Cpl. John MacDonald said in a statement the bird, an adult female, was found dead beside a logging road east of Moosehead Lake on April 15.

A concerned sportsman subsequently reported the incident to game wardens, who took the eagle to Avian Haven in Freedom, where an examination determined it had been shot.

The bird is believed to have been killed in early April. MacDonald said later Thursday the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a reward of \$2,500 for information leading to a conviction of those responsible for killing the eagle.

The Maine Warden Service is seeking information related to the eagle's killing.

Those with information should call Operation Game Thief at 287-6057 or Bangor Public Safety at 973-3700.

# Canada OKs GMO salmon for sale

REUTERS

OTTAWA — Canada approved a type of genetically modified salmon for sale, health officials said on Thursday, the first such animal to be cleared as safe for consumption in the country.

The salmon was approved in the United States to be farmed for human consumption last year but has since been a source of controversy. Environmentalists sued U.S. health regulators earlier this year to try overturn the decision.

Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection

Agency said that the AquaAdvantage salmon developed by Massachusetts-based AquaBounty Technologies had been found to be as safe and nutritious as conventional salmon for food and livestock feed.

It was the first genetically modified animal to be approved for consumption in Canada.

These were the final scientific assessments by the government that were required to allow the salmon to be sold in Canada, the agencies said. There will be no special labeling requirements for the salmon, given

that there are no health and safety concerns.

Activist groups expressed their concerns following the approval, saying that the government should establish mandatory labeling of all genetically modified foods.

The salmon is developed by introducing a growth hormone gene from a Pacific salmon to an Atlantic Salmon, which then grows faster than conventional farmed salmon.

The company, which has a facility in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island, welcomed the news.



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