



The view of the Roach River below Second Roach Pond, from the dam that is under construction. This section of the river was dewatered when the previous dam held back all the water in 2014.

Dam

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the river from Second Roach Pond before this summer’s construction of a re-engineered dam began in September.

Tim Obrey, the regional fisheries biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, said addressing the issue promptly last fall was key, as fish in the river were ready to spawn.

“Last fall, [the Appalachian Mountain Club] installed several culverts at the base of the dam to provide the flow that we recommended to attract and hold adult salmon and trout in the river,” Obrey said in an email. “My assistant, Jeff Bagley, walked the section of river on Nov. 20 and counted 36 [spawning]

redds. We were very pleased by the results of the survey.”

Graff said he’s confident the new dam will provide water flows that fish and wildlife depend on.

“The determination [of a hydrological study] was that [the dam that had been constructed in 2014] was too high, that even a 100-year flood would have had trouble topping the dam,” Graff said. “[At the new dam], the water will go over the dam, but at low water the fish will pass through the fish passage.”

Obrey said the Appalachian Mountain Club and Wright-Pierce engineers co-operated with biologists during the planning process and showed that they were concerned about the same things the DIF&W was: habitat.

And while he said the Appalachian Mountain Club wishes the dewatering had



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

The dam on the Roach River that caused a stretch of the river that serves as a “nursery” for wild brook trout and landlocked salmon to run dry after errors were made by a contractor for the Appalachian Mountain Club during work on the dam in 2014.

never happened, Graff is gratified that one of the requirements of the settlement agreement called for habitat work funded by his group. The Appalachian Mountain Club has long

been involved in fish passage projects, he said.

“[The Blackstone Stream work] is a great project,” Graff said. “If we had to pay a fine for mitigation work, that was a good outcome.”

Holyoke

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birds in an area], because they’re going to weather the storm, hunker down and sit tight,” Sullivan said. “But [hunters should] look for that first sunny day, and that’s when [grouse] are going to be out in those openings. They’ll be sunning themselves and getting warm. That would be when you’d want to time your hunt.”

Allen, who’s always paying close attention to hard grouse data and anecdotal reports, said he expects grouse hunters to have good luck this year.

“I’ve had my ear to the ground all summer, looking at grouse numbers through our research project and through listening to bird hunting enthusiasts that live in various parts of the state,” Allen said. “I’m calling for an average grouse year. I’m hoping that might be a little under representation of the population. I don’t want people to think we’re going to have a bumper crop of grouse, but we think it will be good.”

Allen explained that some of the radio-collared female grouse in the research project experienced “nest failure” during the spring hatching season, but the majority of those birds ended up re-nesting and raising broods a little bit later in the spring.

A late winter likely contributed to those early struggles, he said. And while observers didn’t see many broods on the ground early in the summer, those late-arriving broods likely bolstered the overall population.

“People that were seeing grouse early, small numbers of broods, might have underestimated how the summer was for partridge,” Allen said. “We think it’s going to be pretty good [this season]. Slightly above average.”

Sullivan said he just returned from Aroostook County, where the early Canada goose season recently wrapped up. A long winter and dry spring likely affected the goose population, he said.

“I think the birds came into the breeding season not as fit, so I don’t know if they had the capacity to breed that they normally do,” Sullivan said. “I think some geese moved on and didn’t even attempt [to breed] be-

cause they had such a tough winter.”

The fall wild turkey season will run from Oct. 1 until Oct. 30, and Allen said recent activity near his house has left him encouraged.

“I wasn’t sure what kind of production we had for turkeys this year until 10 hens showed up at my house with about 48 young,” Allen said. “It was amazing. So for fall hunting, there are a lot of birds out there and a lot of young.”

There is one complicating

factor, however: Food is everywhere.

“This is a beechnut year and acorns, so [turkeys] are not going to be concentrated [around scarce food sources],” Sullivan said. “You may not see birds in distinct locations because there’s so much food everywhere.”

Allen said that’s not necessarily a bad thing. The birds, after all, should be thriving.

“That’s kind of an exciting year when that happens,” Allen said. “There are a plethora of food items

out there for game birds. ... It excites me that there’s so much food on the landscape.”

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Things to Do Outdoors

BANGOR — Greg Westrich, author of “Hiking Maine: A Guide to the State’s Greatest Hiking Adventures” and other shorter works, to offer talk, slide-show and discussion on the great hikes of Maine and hiking with children, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor, 120 Park St. Westrich has two more books coming out in the spring. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

BLUE HILL — Free firearms safety course for hunters, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at Blue Hill Public Library. Must attend every day of the class to receive certificate, which is required with first-time license applications. Participants must be at least 10 years old. All minors required to have signed parental consent form, available at the first session. Registration required at www.bhpl.net or by calling 374-5515. For information, visit maine.gov/ifw/education/safety/firearm.htm.

GRAND LAKE STREAM — Wilderness first aid, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 14-15, at Downeast Lakes Land Trust, 4 Water St. Led by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities. \$150 per student; CPR offered for an additional fee. Lodging and meals not included. Students should come prepared with items from SOLO’s Gear List, available at downeastlakes.org. For information or to preregister, call Downeast Lakes Land Trust at 796-2100 or email cbrown@downeastlakes.org.

ORRINGTON — King’s Mountains corn maze, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 31, 789 Center Drive. Pumpkins and plants from Ledge-wood Gardens available

for purchase. Briana Daily Photography is offering mini photo sessions by appointment.

STEOBEN — “Introduction to Mosses and Their Allies” workshop with Fred Olday, starting at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, and ending at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Eagle Hill Institute, 59 Eagle Hill Road. Course details and registration at eaglehill.us/fall-workshops. Cost includes tuition and meal plan, with optional overnight accommodations available at \$30 per night. There is a 20 percent discount on tuition for Hancock and Washington county residents. For information, call Marilyn Mayer at 546-2821, ext. 1, or email office@eaglehill.us.

WALTHAM — Waltham-Eastbrook Youth Association’s first turkey shoot of the year, 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Oct. 4, at the shooting range off Route 200. Events for .22-caliber rifles, 12- and 20-gauge shotguns, and an open category where anything from bows to rifles may be used. Shooting is at paper targets, with frozen turkeys awarded to the winners of each of the 15 events. Local 4-H club provides refreshments. Spectators welcome.

WINTER HARBOR — Bird observation, 7-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 14, 21 and 28. Frazer Point Early Bird Flight is the third and newest migration monitoring program being conducted by the Schoodic Institute Bird Ecology Program. Witness songbird migration, learn identification tips, gain bird conservation knowledge and find out about a variety of opportunities to participate as a Schoodic Institute citizen scientist. Bring binoculars and remember to dress for the weather. For information, email sbenz@schoodicinstitute.org or call 288-1350.

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



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