



# Pəskehtək<sup>w</sup>ok

## *Joining of the Branches*

### Phone Extensions

Air Technician	7340
David Almenas, Forest Technician	7335
Ron Bear, Forest Technician	7335
John Banks, DNR Director	7330
Rhonda Daigle, Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator	7326
Clem Fay, Fisheries Manager	7362
Yvonne "Cookie" Francis, Administrative Assistant	7331
Tim Gould, Game Warden	7395
Dan Kusnierz, Water Resources Program Manager	7361
Frank Loring, Game Warden	7392
Josh Loring, Game Warden	7392
Jason Mitchell, Water Resources Field Coordinator	7381
Eric Nicolar, Air Quality Manager	7336
Jim Pardilla, Game Warden	7392
Ed Paul, Game Warden	7392
Jan Paul, Water Resources Field and Lab Technician	7382
Angie Reed, Water Resources Planner	7360
Russ Roy, Forest Manager	7339
Dennis Stevens, Forester	7337
Binke Wang, GIS Specialist	7341
Water Resources Trainees	7363

### *DNR Assessment of the West Old Town Landfill*

~ Unfortunately it was no April Fools joke that this article didn't get printed in our first crack at a DNR newsletter. Our apologies - we have learned from that technology glitch! ~

No doubt you have heard a lot in the news lately about the West Old Town landfill. The sale of the landfill from Georgia Pacific (GP) to the state provides money to GP to install a biomass boiler. The landfill, previously used for disposal of GP sludge, will now be operated by Casella Waste Services. Casella is planning to greatly increase the landfill's size upward, accept new types of waste, and supply construction and demolition debris (C&D) to burn in GP's boiler.

Eric Nicolar and Dan Kusnierz in DNR have been very busy reviewing documents related to this controversial project and its potential impact on water and air quality and the health of Penobscot people. Dr. Andrew Reeve, a hydrogeologist from UMaine Orono, provided us with technical assistance on groundwater and geology aspects of the project. DNR staff have attended four public meetings and emphasized the need for government-to-government consultations. On March 23 Tribal Council and DNR staff met with Maine DEP to voice our concerns and ask

questions about the landfill.

Our water-related comments made recommendations for 1) a double-liner system, 2) additional testing to better characterize ground water flow and definitively determine the cause of water quality changes, 3) baseline monitoring of drinking water wells of nearby residents, 4) changes to the environmental monitoring plan to better detect leaks and spills, and 5) meaningful involvement of Penobscot DNR in monitoring and operation plans. We also expressed our concern regarding the amount of out-of-state waste that will be accepted at the landfill.

The landfill presents two different air pollution considerations. The largest air emission, methane, will be controlled using a gas flare with a burn rate which is sufficiently high to control health impacts and odors. Non-methane organic compounds have not been addressed yet. But this will require Casella to apply for a Title V air license, ensuring that the landfill complies with air emission limits and concentrations. When the license application draft is made available, the Air Manager will do a thorough review to ensure the tribe's concerns are taken into account.

*(Continued on next page)*



### ***CONTRACT WORK AVAILABLE ~ FORESTRY DEPARTMENT***

- **CONTRACT THINNING:** We plan on having a contract thinning program again this year. Interested members should contact Russ Roy at 817-7339.
- **CONTRACT ROAD WORK:** We may have some road work to contract out. Members who may be interested in bidding for such work should contact Russ Roy at 817-7339.



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The GP biomass boiler would represent an addition of a major new source of air emissions close to the Island — a major concern of the Air Program. Eric has been in consultation with GP and the Maine DEP regarding areas of concern in their Title V draft permit. Eric will be reviewing an additional “beneficial use” permit that determines how they will sort the C&D so that large amounts of toxic materials aren’t burned in violation of allowable ratios. As a result of this work the plant will no longer be relying on #2 oil for fuel and the boiler will be retrofitted with better controls. Although these improvements will be made and certain air standards met, Eric will continue to assess levels of toxic emissions and communicate any concerns to the regulating agencies.

**Please remember the role that each one of us plays in creating the need for landfills. Reduce, reuse, and recycle!**



*This cartoon appeared in Indian Country Today on April 9, 2004. See it online at <http://IndianCountry.com/?1081521286>*

# HELP US PROTECT WATER QUALITY

## JOIN US FOR A FREE WORKSHOP

Have fun and learn about preventing non-point source pollution

## BRING THE FAMILY

**WHEN:** Wednesday May 12  
 Workshop starts at 6 pm  
 Dinner catered by Panda Garden at 6:30pm

**WHERE:** Olamon Building

**WHAT:** Presentations by DNR staff and  
**FUN ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:**

- Dunk Tank
- Computer games
- Interactive learning



**PRIZES:** First 50 people to arrive get a \$20 gift certificate to a nursery for plant materials  
 Drawings for larger gift certificates to a local nursery include:  
**GRAND PRIZE - \$500**  
**2ND PRIZE - \$300**  
**3RD PRIZE - \$200**

## Nahmun's River

### Reflections

Please look for this story by Butch Philips to be told over multiple upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Nahmun, a young Penobscot Indian man, cast a spinner bait toward the shore trying to entice a smallmouth bass. As his canoe drifted downstream, he would occasionally lift the paddle with one hand and steer the canoe to keep it parallel with the shore. An eagle made its way up the river and landed in one of the many oak trees that lined the shore of the island. Nahmun thought how nice it was to see an eagle on the river. His father had told him the eagle, that is revered by his people, at one time ceased to exist on the river due to DDT poisoning.

As he worked his lure around a "dead head" log, Nahmun thought how different his life is compared to that of his ancestors. He was fishing among the islands that are the ancestral homelands of the Penobscot Indian Nation. His people have lived here for thousands of years. He was using the canoe, the ancient mode of transportation, although, it was a modern kevlar canoe, not the birch bark canoe of his ancestors. His rod and reel were the latest in fishing technology used to casting a dozen different lures, unlike the ancestors. They used spears and nets to catch the fish that was so important to their survival.

As he fished, his mind drifted back to the days and tried to visualize how the river looked when his ancestors traveled this river.  
... (to be continued)

## Indian Island School Salmon Incubation Tank

by Clem Fay, Fisheries Manager

The Indian Island School Salmon Incubation Tank Program began during the 1994-1995 school year and has continued annually since then. Co-sponsored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Atlantic Salmon Federation, with myself as local coordinator. The program involves the Indian Island School's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class, under the astute guidance of teacher David Thibodeau, caring for 200-300 Penobscot Atlantic salmon eggs in a 30-gallon aquarium housed in the classroom. The program also includes several specific events and activities over the course of the school year.

After a brief program introduction in October, the 2003-2004 program kicked off with the annual field trip to Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in Orland in early November. The usual highlight of this trip is watching the process of the biologists obtaining the eggs and milt from the large adult salmon brought to the hatchery each year from the Veazie Dam fish trap on the Penobscot River. Then, in January, we set up the incubation tank and got our "eyed" salmon eggs delivered. They live in the gravel that we put in the tank from the time they are delivered until they hatch out and absorb their yolk sac, at which point they begin to cruise around the tank looking for food.



Clem with the 2003-2004 5th grade class and USFWS on their trip to the hatchery.

During the winter and early spring months, I go into the classroom periodically to give presentations to the class on historical and current Penobscot River fish species and their life histories, and also look at the development of the young hatchling salmon under a special "microvideo" camera. Then, in May, the Water Resources Program comes in with samples of live aquatic insects and other "macro-invertebrates" collected from local waters that the students then sort through, key out, and learn about in relation to the habitat and water quality conditions from which they came. Finally, the young salmon fry, at about 1 inch long, are stocked in a local stream during a field trip when we also talk about salmon habitat needs (and get eaten alive by those hungry spring mosquitoes!).

With now 16 years of work here for the Penobscot Nation DNR, I can confidently say that this component of my job is the most enjoyable and rewarding, particularly considering the relatively small time investment required and the fact that the students seem to really enjoy the program too, especially the hatchery trip and the aquatic insects sessions. Please feel free to contact me if you want to learn more about the Salmon Tank Program or would like to visit the tank.