



Photo: Martin Neptune

Pəskehtək^wok

Joining of The Branches

Summer 2004 ~ Issue 1

Penobscot Indian Nation
Department of Natural Resources

DNR Director Elected to Chair Regional Air Quality Group

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 Supervisor	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
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The Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) concluded its annual Board meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2004, in Red Bank, New Jersey, recommending that the group use EPA's definition of "Natural Background" conditions, the goal of the regional haze program, and encouraging other regions to do the same. The group also decided not to exempt any sources from the control technology called for in the regional haze rule, and to strongly encourage EPA and other regions to regulate these sources consistently. At the meeting, MANE-VU introduced its new Chair, John Banks of the Penobscot Nation, and its new Vice Chair, Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.



John Banks, DNR Director

"I am honored to work with the Commissioners and Air Directors of the 12 states and 2 Tribes on the important effort of reducing haze at our parks and reservations, not only for the improved visibility, but for the thousands of lives that will be saved each year by us meeting our air quality goals" said Mr. Banks, In response to the news that the Mid-Atlantic Northeast Regional Visibility Union (MANE-VU) had unanimously elected John Banks to be its new Chair, EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt said "It's very gratifying to see a Tribal representative elected to lead such an important multi-State and Tribal organization as MANE-VU. EPA views Tribal governments as important partners in environmental protection, and I

strongly encourage their participation to address important regional and national issues like regional haze." "MANE-VU is bringing together the best expertise in the nation to take on the pollution that clouds our view and impairs our health. Pennsylvania is pleased to contribute to this important work, and I personally am honored to work under John's

capable lead," said Secretary McGinty. Former Chair Christopher Recchia of Vermont said "I am very excited to transition this work to such a great team and the leadership found in both Director Banks and Secretary McGinty, and the fact that we have a Native American chair is a tribute to the region's commitment to supporting and involving the tribes as we work to

improve air quality on Tribal lands as well as in our national parks." (Recchia was formerly Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Protection and now serves as MANE-VU's Executive Director). Major discussion topics of the MANE-VU meeting included continued evaluation of what pollutants cause regional haze and destroy the visibility at our parks, the health effects of the problem, and how to best address the goal of returning air quality to natural conditions. Actions included a decision on what "natural background" levels in the region are, and what reductions in emissions will be needed to achieve the goals under the regional haze program. MANE-VU members also discussed the implications of

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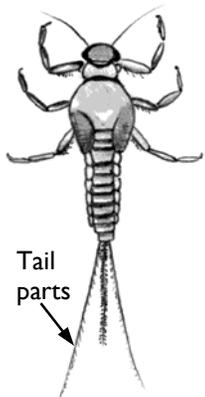
the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) rule in the region, which was recently released by the U.S. EPA. MANE-VU was formed to encourage a coordinated approach to meeting the requirements of EPA's regional haze rules and reducing visibility impairment in major national parks and wilderness areas in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. Members include Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the Penobscot Indian Nation, Rhode Island, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, and Vermont. Also participating as non-voting members of MANE-VU are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. MANE-VU provides technical assessments and assistance to its members, evaluates linkages to other regional air pollution issues, provides a forum for discussion, and encourages coordinated actions. MANE-VU also facilitates coordination with other regions.



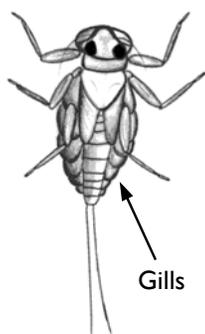
It's Critter Time!

Aquatic critters that is. As part of Clem's Salmon Incubation Program with the Island School, Dan Kusnierz and Angie Reed brought in some aquatic insects for the 5th grade class. We spent the first part of the class period talking about the importance of aquatic insects as food for fish and indicators of water quality. Then the real fun began - everyone got to get their hands wet and play with real live insects! Some of the major groups of insects we looked at included mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies.

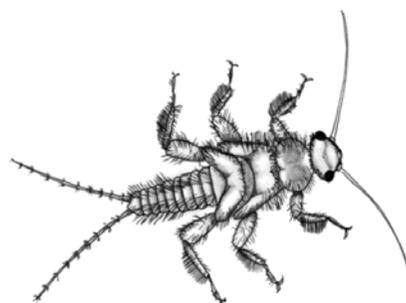
MAYFLIES: We saw that the larval stage of these



critters usually have 3 parts to their tail - but if they don't you need to look for the gills on the sides of their abdomen. Because they have gills they need clean water with lots of oxygen to exist.



STONEFLIES: In contrast, the larval stage of stoneflies always have 2 parts to their tail and NEVER have gills on their abdomen. And if you get a really big one you might be able to see that they have two claws on the end of



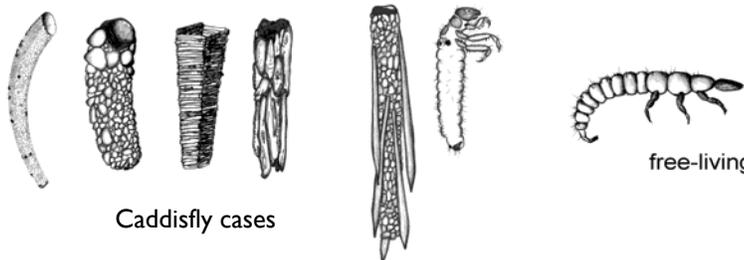
their legs! But just like mayflies, stoneflies breath through their gills so when they are present in large numbers you can be pretty sure that the river is healthy.



Photo: Mr. Thibodeau

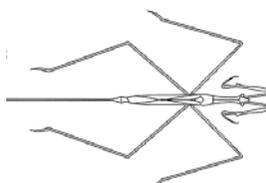
Enthusiastic students picking through samples of aquatic insects.

CADDISFLIES: These critters have the widest variety of living quarters. Some make cases to live in. And these cases are made from MANY different materials, including sand grains, sticks, grass and more! Others live freely. And still others weave nets that serve to collect food from the water flowing through it.



Caddisfly cases

free-living



Water scorpion

The biggest treat was showing the class a critter not typically seen by many people - a water scorpion. These are found in the slow water of river and streams and on the edges of lakes. They are not poisonous and are GREAT fun to watch. We look forward to more of this fun next year!



Libellula pulchella
Twelve-spotted skimmer

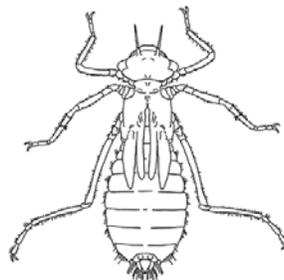
Photo: Blair Nikula

Policing the Area

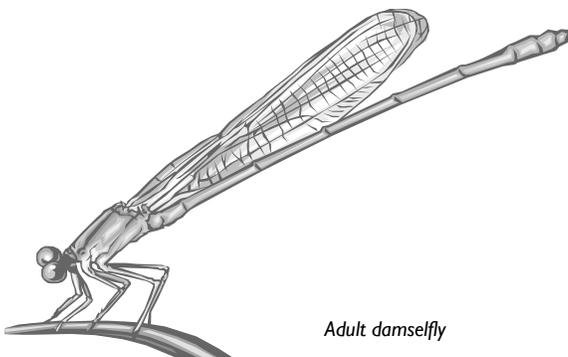
The little wetland area between the police station and the DNR parking lot might not look like much but a Twelve-spotted skimmer, pictured above, is pretty happy to have it. About a week ago one of these dragonflies was perching on one of the àlaskol (reeds) and flying around policing the area. Dragonflies are sometimes called “mosquito hawks” because they eat lots of mosquitoes in both the larval and adult stages of their life. All dragonflies spend the larval stage of their lives, which can last between one and four years, in slow-moving water. The larvae of this and other species can be used for bait fishing or as fly patterns for nymph fishing, especially in ponds and lakes.

Another insect that is unable to fold their four elongate wings over the abdomen when at rest is the damselfly. While the adult dragonflies and damselflies look similar, the way to tell the difference between them is actually pretty simple. Dragonflies hold their wings out flat when they are resting and damselflies hold them together so that they stick up in the air.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife started a survey of the dragonflies and damselflies of Maine back in 1995. Lots of data and GREAT photos can be found on their website at mdds.umf.maine.edu/



Dragonfly larvae 5mm



Adult damselfly

So as you are walking around the Island, take a moment to look for the beautiful varieties of insect life with whom we share this space.

Nahmun's River

Reflections

This story by Butch Philips spans multiple issues of this newsletter.

Nahmun wondered why the river had changed so much and why the People and their traditions had changed also. Nahmun stopped fishing for a moment and lay back in the canoe, watching the tops of the trees go silently by. As he drifted slowly along with the current, he recalled a story his father told him about the changes brought to the river by the European settlers many generations ago.

His father told of a long time ago a medicine man had a vision about a big canoe with sails coming from the direction of the rising sun. Strangers with light colored skins would come to our lands and bring great change to the land and the people. At first the people treated the strangers with cautious apprehension, but later greeted them in the customary way

But more ships brought many more people to the area. Settlements sprang up surrounding the few Indian villages scattered along the river. The Europeans moved further inland and discovered a forest with vast amounts of valuable trees. As the lumber industry grew, the river was used to transport the lumber to the ocean. Dams were built to help float the logs and the river became full of logs impeding canoe travel. The dams also kept the fish from migrating from the ocean to their native spawning grounds. Once there were falls and rapids, new ponds were created by the dams. Towns and mills were built on the shores and dumped their pollutants into the river. The once precious, pristine, free flowing river that the ancestors had revered and protected for the future generations was destroyed.

The change had a drastic effect on the People and the creatures. The caribou and the beaver went away. The eagle and the osprey went away. The salmon, shad and alewives went away. The People went away from the river also. The sacred circle of life was broken. The ancestors witnessed the destruction, and they wept, but their tears couldn't flush the poisons from the river. Their protests could not stop the dams and mills or the increasing population along the river. With this change came a change to the way of life of the People and to their traditions as well. (to be continued)