# Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society (METWS)

## Conservation Affairs Committee (CAC)

2016 Spring Update

It is feast or famine for the CAC and this spring is no exception. We go from reviewing thousands of legislative documents to determine if any require METWS involvement to what we have had since the winter update - which is nothing to report. So, my first thought was "Good! I do not have to do anything". However, guilt got the better of me and I am going to take this opportunity to go out on a limb and try something new. So, as the Monty Python narrator would say, and now for something completely different.

Many of us have the opportunity to travel for work and leisure and we find ourselves in interesting locations across Maine, the country and beyond. Since this article is for the METWS I will focus on Maine. There are many interesting natural and historic sites scattered across our great State and I invite you to take 2016 to slow down and take notice of these areas. Whether you are traveling for work or taking a drive to a new birding location do some pre-trip investigation and see what else is out there that you might have driven by 1,000 times. Here is a list of sources you can use to seek out new and interesting sites. If you do take this opportunity please post stories to the METWS Facebook page to share photos and stories. If will be fun to see what our membership is up to and you might help someone find a new site to visit.

Oh yeah; if you are a member or want to be a member of the CAC please email me with your contact information; Rodney.kelshaw@stantec.com

**METWS Facebook:** Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society

**The Maine Atlas:** In the front of the book there are lists and locations for sand beaches, nature preserves, parks (municipal, State and National), fish and wildlife management areas, hiking trails, unique natural areas, scenic waterfalls, canoe trips, lighthouses, and historic forts.

**Explore Maine:** contains trail systems, ways to travel and scenic highways http://www.exploremaine.org/

**Visit Maine:** this website pretty much has it all from sites to places to stay http://visitmaine.com/

**Maine Birding Trail:** http://www.mainebirdingtrail.com/

**Maine Ice Age Trail: http://iceagetrail.umaine.edu/** The Ice Age had a profound effect on the Maine landscape. This effect is very pronounced in the Down East region, where a vast sheet of glacial ice sculpted Cadillac and surrounding mountains, carved out the Sommes Sound fjord, and left spectacular sand barrens. The Ice Age Trail is comprised of the finest and most accessible of these features. It follows the margins of the last great North American continental ice sheet and coincides with many Down East tourist attractions.

**Baseline Road in Cherryfield, ME**

**Maine Beer Trail:** possibly the most important site and map to have access to on a trip http://mainebrewersguild.org/maine-beer-trail/

**National Park Service National Register of Historic Places:** https://www.nps.gov/nr/research/

**U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration list of Scenic Byways:** http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/

**National Wilderness Areas:** http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/advSearch

**EcoSystem Indicator Partnership:** a website and phone application that directs you to research sites within the Gulf of Maine and beyond http://www.gulfofmaine.org

**Scale Solar System: Aroostook County:** University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) built a 40 mile (64.6 km) long scale model of the solar system, at a scale of 1 mile equaling the distance from earth to sun (1:93,000,000). The model extends along Route 1, between the UMPI campus and the Houlton Information Center at the end of I-95. The model has ten major components, those being the sun and the nine planets from Mercury to Pluto, with moons for Earth, Saturn, Jupiter (4) and Pluto.

The model serves as an educational resource and tourist attraction. All planets except Pluto are visible from the road. Educational information on the planets are found in the brochure, available at the Information Center in Houlton. The small models are mounted on tall - ten foot high above ground level - posts to be viewed from the car, with the planets included within a 1-foot (3.048 dm) diameter semicircular structure to better show the tilt of the planets.

The planets are exhibited as three-dimensional models. The two largest planetary models Jupiter and Saturn measure 4-5 feet across (1.22 - 1.52 m) and the two mid-sized planets Uranus and Neptune measuring 21-22 inches (53 - 56 cm) require rather substantial monuments.
http://pages.umpi.edu/~nmms/solar/index.htm