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May 9, 2011

Four Honored for Commitment to Fish and Wildlife Conservation

CONCORD, N.H. -- Four New Hampshire citizens and organizations have been recognized by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission with Awards of Excellence for their efforts in the conservation field in support of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's mission.

"What a privilege it is to present these awards, which recognize truly significant contributions in support of the mission of New Hampshire's wildlife agency, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department," said Sharon Guaraldi, Fish and Game Commissioner from Grafton County and chair of the Commission's Awards of Excellence program. The awards were presented at the Commission's April 2011 meeting at Fish and Game headquarters in Concord.

The 2010 Commission Award of Excellence recipients:

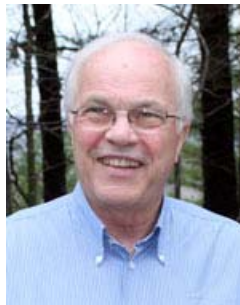
The **Ellis R. Hatch Jr. Commission Award of Excellence**, the commission's highest honor, was presented to **Mike Normandin of Belmont, N.H.**, who during the past year spearheaded the renovation of Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, N.H., a summer camp where youth learn outdoor skills. Barry Camp had been shuttered since 2009, but Normandin energetically mobilized a statewide effort to involve volunteers and solicit donations to refurbish the camp, as well as raising money for a growing endowment that is key to the camp's future maintenance.

The Commission noted that Normandin's efforts resulted in dozens of Fish and Game Clubs and conservation organizations across the state working together to rebuild and reopen the camp. (Check out the progress and donate to the cause at www.wildnh.com/barrycamp.) As a result of these collective efforts by New Hampshire's outdoor community, Barry Camp will open in June 2011 with a full slate of residential summer camp options for youth (sign up at <http://extension.unh.edu/4H/4HCamps.htm>).

Normandin was also recognized for his longstanding work with the Belknap County Sportsmen's Association, his volunteer service as a N.H. Fish and Game Hunter Education instructor, and his deep and abiding love for the outdoors.

2010 Fish and Game Commission Awardees

NEWS MEDIA: Click to download a high-res image of recipients with their awards



Mike Normandin, Ellis R. Hatch Jr. award recipient



Kevin McEaney (board president) and Anna Boudreau (executive director) of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy



The **Conservation Organization Award of Excellence** was presented to the **Great Bay Stewards**. This award recognizes an organization, group, foundation or agency that has excelled in efforts to enhance the welfare of fish, wildlife and marine resources in the state. Joe Stieglitz of Lee, President of the Great Bay Stewards, was there to accept the award. The Great Bay Stewards (www.greatbaystewards.org) were established in 1973 as a small group of concerned individuals who wanted to protect the integrity of and possible negative environmental impacts on Great Bay and its estuaries. Since that time, this essential organization has grown in strength and diversity as its important role in preserving Great Bay has spread to concerns affecting surrounding communities.

"These dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to protect and preserve the vitality of Great Bay through education, land protection and research," said Fish and Game Commissioner for Strafford County Robert S.S. Blake, who nominated them for the award.

Joe Stieglitz, president, Great Bay Stewards



Peter St. James, Communications award recipient

The Great Bay Stewards provide scholarships to researchers and students who are working toward the long-term sustainability of the bay. They assisted in the creation of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, comprised of 4,500 acres of tidal waters and wetlands as well as about 12,000 acres of multi-use land, as a place for education, research and resource protection. They worked to convert former Pease Air Base land into a wildlife refuge; helped develop the Great Bay Discovery Center in Greenland, N.H.; and continue to be an essential part of Reserve operations, working in partnership with Fish and Game staff for the benefit of those who visit, especially 5,000-plus elementary school children who visit each year. In addition to their volunteer work, the Stewards provide continued financial support for many N.H. Fish and Game projects and programs that would not be possible without their contributions.

The **Habitat Stewardship Award of Excellence** was earned by the **Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC), based in Dover, N.H.** This award recognizes an individual or organization that has excelled in the enhancement, conservation or creation of land management practices beneficial to New Hampshire's fish, wildlife and marine resources and the Department's mission. Kevin McEneaney of Dover, President of the SRC board of Directors, and SRC Executive Director Anna Boudreau of Dover were present to accept the award on behalf of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, a regional land trust whose purpose is to protect the natural resources, beauty and character of lands in Strafford County. The organization accomplishes this by facilitating the conservation easement process and educating landowners on the procedures and benefits of protecting their land through easements or gifts. Through their efforts and partnerships with many groups, including New Hampshire Fish and Game, the Strafford Rivers Conservancy has protected 3,270 acres in Strafford County. Learn more about SRC at www.straffordriversconservancy.org.

The **Communication Award of Excellence** was presented to broadcast journalist **Peter St. James of Warner, N.H.**, for his consistent promotion of sportsmen's interests and N.H. Fish and Game Department initiatives. St. James is a longtime member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association and a radio personality on WTPL Radio, where he actively shares what is new and important relating to Fish and Game issues. For several years, he has added to the excitement of the annual Moose Hunt Lottery Day with a popular on-air radio event. When not at sportsmen's banquets talking with people, he can be found in the field or stream as an avid hunter and angler.

"Peter St. James's ongoing efforts are a huge, influential voice for Fish and Game's efforts and conservation in New Hampshire. Today we have the opportunity to say 'thank you, Peter!' and keep up the good work," said Commissioner Sharon Guaraldi in presenting the award.

Nominate your Conservation Hero!

This is the sixth year for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission Awards of Excellence. There are seven award categories, and nominations must be submitted by December 31 of each

year. For a description of the awards and award categories, profiles of past winners, and a nomination form to honor your conservation hero or worthy organization for next year's awards, go to www.wildnh.com/Inside_FandG/commission_awards.html.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources and their habitats. Visit www.wildnh.com.

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