



Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Excellence In Wildlife Stewardship Through Science and Education

2014 Award of Recognition Presented to Penobscot Fly Fishers, Inc. November 2014

The Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society's **Award of Recognition** acknowledges the efforts of individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, or industries in Maine that have made noteworthy contributions to wildlife management or conservation, or to the education of the public about wildlife. This award is presented to non-professionals, or professionals serving in a volunteer role, who contribute their time and talents to enhance or educate about Maine's natural resources.

This year we are pleased to honor **The Penobscot Fly Fishers, Inc.** (PFF), which was formed in June 1997 by a small band of anglers from central Maine who wished to promote the sport of fly-fishing. Later that year the Penobscot Fly Fishers became an affiliated Chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. that has been, for fifty years, a dedicated advocate of environmental education and conservation of fisheries resources. Both of these organizations are 501(c)3 non-profit corporations and are organized exclusively for educational and conservation purposes. In fact, the Penobscot Fly Fisher's by-laws clearly state that its purpose is "... to promote fly-fishing and conservation through education, personal conduct and volunteer service." Its 80 members meet monthly, except for July and August. A monthly newsletter keeps members informed of upcoming activities, resulting in participation rates that usually exceed 50 percent.

Some examples of the activities of the Penobscot Fly Fishers are:

- Offering fly-tying classes for eight weeks every winter, as well as at summer camps, for schools and organizations, and at an annual symposium that includes a one-day workshop with expert fly-tiers instructing in special techniques.
- Hosting the Cabin Fever Reliever weekend for the last nine years at Brewer Auditorium. It is free to the public, with more than 50 exhibitors representing a multitude of outdoor interests.
- Participating in the annual Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show sponsored by the Penobscot County Conservation Association (PCCA) during which members of the Penobscot Fly Fishers teach children and youth to tie a fly.
- Providing fly-tying and fly-casting instruction at the PCCA's Family Field Day.
- Contributing flies to the *Casting for Recovery* program that conducts retreats to enhance the quality of life for women with breast cancer through a unique program that combines breast cancer education and peer support with the therapeutic sport of fly fishing.

The Penobscot Fly Fishers also maintain an up-to-date library with books, tapes, CDs, DVDs, and other fly-fishing materials that members can borrow. The organization's generosity extends to providing at least one scholarship annually to a summer camp for a deserving youth, and members donate food and toys to a local food pantry during the Christmas holidays.

Thus, in appreciation of this organization's volunteer activities that have promoted the sport of fly-fishing and have educated and enhanced the appreciation of Maine citizens, especially its youth, for Maine's natural resources, it is with pleasure that the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society presents its **2014 Award of Recognition** to the **Penobscot Fly Fishers, Inc.**, a truly community-oriented organization. Congratulations.