



MDOC

Week ending
Nov. 25, 2011

From the Field

Conserving Maine's Special Places for Maine People

Dear Friends of Conservation:

This year has been a year of successes, and the role of the Maine Department of Conservation in balancing Maine's natural resource economy, public access and conservation is moving center stage.

Our analytical and scientific capabilities have never been stronger; we have achieved significant headway in making our regulations rigorous and more predictable, fair and with less delay. Our parks, trails and public lands have expanded, experienced record attendance and our public timber harvests have been significant. Our oversight of millions of acres of easements has been exemplary. We have kept forest fire and insect infestations at bay.



MDOC Commissioner Bill Beardsley

Our natural resource industries, from windmills to paper mills, are investing in preparation of a strengthening economy. Business and conservation interests are converging as emphasized by the Sierra Club seeking to fell trees into streams to create cover, shadows and roughage for Maine's iconic brook trout only to find Maine loggers at their side. All this should make us proud.

Thank you for all you have done to support this multiple-use vision for Maine that we share, and best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,

Bill Beardsley
MDOC Commissioner

Gov. LePage Helps Dedicate Trail to Fallen Presque Isle Marine

Gov. Paul LePage, along with local family members, on Oct. 7 helped to dedicate a hiking trail at Haystack Mountain, Castle Hill, to the memory of a fallen Iraq marine born in Presque Isle.



Gov. LePage and the Libby family unveil the trail marker.

The governor, along with parents, Judd and Geni Libby, and brother, Chris Libby, uncovered an engraved granite trail marker dedicated to Cpl. Dustin J. Libby, 22, who was killed in a fire fight. They also uncovered a plaque dedicated to the young U.S. marine that was to be placed later that morning on a bench at the summit of the trail, part of a 215-acre area owned and managed by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL).

MDOC Commissioner Bill Beardsley assured the Libby family and friends that “we will care for the trail we dedicate today as if it were for our own son.” Will Harris, BPL director, welcomed the guests, noting the appropriateness of dedicating the trail to Libby’s memory

Dustin J. Libby was born Jan. 4, 1984, in Presque Isle and graduated from Presque Isle High School’s Adult Education Program, Class of 2003. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps, graduating February 2004 with a meritorious promotion to private 1st class.

Libby’s last deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom brought him back to Ar Ramadi, Iraq, where he led a squad of 12 men. Cpl. Dustin J. Libby, 22, died Dec. 6, 2006, in honorable service to his country during a fire fight while stationed in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

A bill proposed by State Rep. Alexander Willette (R-Mapleton), and co-sponsored by eight state representatives and one state senator, directed BPL dedicate the trail in Libby’s memory. The Maine Legislature passed the bill in March, and Gov. LePage signed the bill in April. The event was well attended by about 50 people, including family members and friends, area legislators, including Rep. Willette, park staff, and a contingent of U.S. marines, both current corps members and veterans.

MDOC Team Manages Severe Erosion at Popham Beach State Park

As severe erosion threatens the west bathhouse at Popham Beach State Park in Phippsburg, two MDOC divisions – the Bureau of Parks and Lands and Maine Geological Survey -- have teamed up to lessen the threat while working with natural coastal processes.



Popham Beach erosion near bathhouse.

The two agencies have analyzed the situation, and in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maine Department of Environmental Protection, have applied for permits to move sand this winter to fill in a threatening channel. The effort will be localized, take into consideration coastal processes and the beach sand budget, and not affect neighboring properties, recent piping plover-nesting habitat or sensitive coastal sand dunes.

Since July, unprecedented beach erosion has shifted the park shoreline more than 50 feet closer to the west bathhouse, eliminated a path to the beach, and split the recreational beach into two separate strands. On a daily basis, sand is being swept away by tidal currents that pass swiftly around a tight bend in the

Old Morse River channel. That bend is immediately seaward of the bathhouse, and tide action has removed the recreational beach and left a steep slope only 25 feet from the bathhouse.

This month, the shoreline is farther inland than at any time in the last 60 years and probably longer. If the ongoing erosion continues, the cut back of the channel may reach the bathhouse in a matter of weeks and could threaten the functioning of the park’s leach field.

As Hurricane Irene threatened the coast in August, BPL staff moved tree barriers to protect the bathhouse, and the sand bank near the structure survived the tropical storm. Through September and October, however, the tides continued to erode the bank farther inland and to encroach on the bathhouse.



Aerial view of Morse River channel.

Earlier this month, more tree barriers were put around the erosion “hot spot,” but they aren’t considered to be enough to protect the sand bank and bathhouse from tidal currents and winter storms. With approval of the permits, sand can be moved to further protect the bathhouse.

Ironically, the current erosion problem is caused by the movement of sand on shore through a combination of waves and tidal currents. The offshore sand bar created last year by the course change of the Morse River has been migrating steadily in an east-northeasterly direction. Reshaping the sandbar to fill in the channel next to the bathhouse is considered the most natural way to quickly slow the erosion.

Additional information on the dynamics at Popham Beach State Park can be found on the Maine Geological Survey web pages: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/marine/sites/sites.htm>

More about visiting Popham Beach State Park is available on the Bureau of Parks and Lands web site: <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/doc/parksearch/index.pl>

New Ferry Beach Nature Center Under Construction

Groundbreaking for the new Ferry Beach State Park Nature Center in Saco took place earlier this year, and construction of the unique facility is under way, according to BPL officials. Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of this year, and fund raising for exhibits is ongoing. BPL is looking forward to the grand opening in the summer of 2012.



Ferry Beach Nature Center

The new nature center will provide educational and recreational opportunities, convey the importance of natural resource protection, and foster relationships between people and nature. It is expected to reflect the spirit of the 127-acre, historic ocean-front park, its sense of place and history through interpretation of its ecological and cultural resources.

The nature center will have dynamic programs, exhibits, and services that encourage park visitors to return and will include exhibits that appeal to all senses. The center building, which will meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards, will accommodate indoor programs, but emphasize outdoor exploration and learning. The center will be available and accessible to all ages with an emphasis on school-aged children.

Funding for the project includes \$100,000 in private donations in conjunction with funds from the November 2010 state park bond, leveraged with both state and federal grants. Those grants include the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trail Program.

Ferry Beach State Park was chosen as the site of the new nature center because it has diverse and rare natural resources, including a rare tupelo (black gum) tree stand; 10 different ecosystems; an established nature-interpretation program; and the park is located in a heavily populated area and is a popular tourist destination.

Maine Forest Service Bug Trapping: No Invasive Insects Found

Maine Forest Service entomologists got some good news this fall from their annual bug trapping project. MFS staff this year put out 82 traps from York to Limestone during the months of April through October. The staff collected 2,600 samples, taking samples from each trap two to 12 times during the year depending on the type of trap and the life cycle of the targeted insects.



Bill Urquhart, MFS entomology technician, prepares a bug trap.

A total of 16 invasive insects, including Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, brown spruce longhorned beetle, Asian gypsy moth and various bark beetles, were targeted, and none of the dangerous bugs were found.

Two new beetles, thought to be native to Maine but not common, were discovered. They were added to the MFS collection of 50,000 native and exotic insects.

Most of the traps are placed on private land with the permission of land owners. They have been placed near such businesses as bark-mulch processors, saw mills, campgrounds, recycling centers, biomass users and large warehouses that have opened their wood-use facilities for trapping.

Cushing’s Island Accepted As Maine’s Third “Firewise Community USA”

Based on a recommendation from the Maine Forest Service’s Forest Protection Division (FPD), the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) Firewise program recently accepted Cushing’s Island into its “Firewise Communities USA” program.



Cushing’s Island view

Cushing’s Island is a small, seasonal community made up of about 40 homes located approximately 2 miles east of Portland. The picturesque island has some unique challenges in terms of wildfire prevention. For example, response time from the Portland Fire Department can be 15 to 45 minutes, depending on the time and location of the fireboat. Although the island community has its own small fire truck on the island, the road system is very limited.

MFS initially was contacted by the Cushing’s Island Conservation Committee during the spring of 2010. Committee members had concerns about the threat of wildfire from excessive spruce blow-downs in a 40-acre area on the east side of the island. As a result, two MFS forest rangers completed a wildfire risk assessment on the island in June 2010 as part of the MFS’s Wildland Urban Interface Program. They also did wildfire risk assessments near 15 structures on the island and created a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

After the plan was written, island residents obtained a federal grant to reduce the spruce blow-down hazard. To keep the wildfire prevention efforts moving forward, a Firewise Board – composed of four residents, one Portland Fire Department member and the MFS fire prevention specialist -- was formed, and a three-year work plan was created that outlines fuel reduction efforts and wildfire prevention events.

A “Firewise” recognition ceremony and “Firewise Day” will be scheduled sometime in the spring, when the residents return. For more information on Maine’s Firewise program, go to:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpd/pages/wui/firewise.html>

MFS Forest Rangers Help in Remote Rescue

MFS Forest Rangers Jonathan Hayes and Doug Huettner were called on Oct. 20 to assist the Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital’s ambulance service with an emergency rescue call to a remote part of Piscataquis County, about 25 miles north of Moosehead Lake.

An elderly man alone at his camp on Caucomgomoc Lake fell down a set of stairs and lay there for several days suffering from severe dehydration and internal injuries before being found.

Hayes responded to the scene, assisted the injured man, provided support to the ambulance



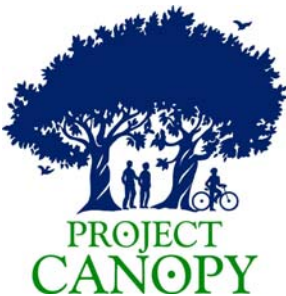
crew when they arrived, and then guided the ambulance to the hospital in Greenville. Huettner provided logistics, made contact with the LifeFlight Helicopter in case it was needed and maintained communications.

The remoteness of the area made communications difficult and at times, the only possible communications was with Maine Forest Service radios. Huettner was able to relay information between the EMS crew, the Piscataquis County Sheriff's Office dispatch and the emergency room medical staff at the hospital.

It turned out that the 70-year-old man was suffering from heart issues and diabetes and had lain in his camp for four days without food or water. After being treated in Greenville, he was transferred to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor where he is recovering.

Project Canopy Awards 2011 Community Grants

Project Canopy, the Maine Forest Service's community forestry program, recently awarded more than \$116,000 to 19 communities to support local community forestry efforts. The Project Canopy Assistance Program is funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program, a national initiative designed to strengthen the connections between people and their environment.



The assistance grants support sustainable community-forestry management; increase awareness of the benefits of trees and forests; and improve the health and livability of communities through sound tree planting and maintenance.

In 2011, there is a strong focus on planting trees as part of downtown revitalization efforts. The municipalities of Bath, Camden, Cape Elizabeth, Dover-Foxcroft, Fort Kent, Gardiner, Kittery, Lincoln, Monson, Sanford, and Standish, plus the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences, are among the communities and entities committed to enhancing their most developed areas through sound tree planting.

In addition to supporting tree planting, Project Canopy awarded grants to Augusta, Bangor, Falmouth, Kennebunkport, Pittsfield, Rockland, and the Sanford Regional Technical Center to conduct town forest management planning, community tree maintenance, management and related education projects.

Municipalities, Organizations Get Free Trees

Speaking of Project Canopy, the MFS community forestry program this fall got to offer municipalities, schools and other groups a different type of tree-planting opportunity through the generosity of Dutton's Nursery in Morrill.

Dutton's Nursery decided to close its retail operations at the end of the season this year. Rather than wholesaling the remaining stock, the owners decided to give back to the communities that had supported their business over the years by donating trees to Project Canopy. As a result, 60 cities, towns, schools, and non-profit organizations from Madawaska to Wells received free trees for community planting.

In total, more than 1,000 trees, representing a variety of species and valued in excess of \$250,000, have been planted in communities across the state to beautify downtowns, increase wildlife habitat and shade in public parks, and reduce the amount of pollutants in Maine's air and water.

Maine Forest Service Tree Growth Tax Rosters Go Digital

In early fall every year, the Maine Forest Service's Division of Forest Policy and Management (FPM) sends out Tree Growth Tax rosters to all Maine towns. These rosters list all the parcels enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax program for a town. As part of the process, MFS asks each town to review the information on its roster, make any necessary changes, and return it to the state agency.

In the past, this process has been done completely on paper. With state and local budgets getting tighter, however, there was a need to reduce the expenses associated with the printing and mailing of the rosters, as well as data-entry processing time when the rosters are returned.

Starting this fall, FPM began sending out electronic versions of the roster to the towns with email addresses. Of the 340 rosters so far sent back, more than 70 percent have been returned electronically, reducing both costs and staff time. Municipalities have responded positively to the change, according to MFS staff.

School Wood-fired Pellet Boiler Projects Go On Line

The first of the ARRA Wood to Energy Round Three grant recipients, Maine School Administration District 74, has its new heating projects up and running. Along with the school superintendent's office in North Anson, four school buildings have been converted from oil burners to wood-fired pellet boilers. The grant is administered through the Maine Forest Service. Most of the other 21 projects from all three grant rounds will be on-line this winter.

The four buildings -- Carrabec High School, Carrabec Community School, Solon Elementary School and Garret Schenck Elementary School -- all are now heated by wood. The projected annual fuel cost savings is \$124,000.

The MSAD 74 plan included re-purposing newer oil boilers from one location to one of the other school buildings to serve as back-up and the re-purposing of the old heating oil storage tank at the high school for use as the diesel fuel tank to service the school bus fleet. The design also included identical boilers installed in tandem at each of the schools, with three units at the high school.



Carrabec High School pellet boilers (Photo courtesy of Cordjia Capital Projects Group)

This installation technique means that only one boiler will be fired at low demand times, one boiler can "rest" or be serviced while the other is in use, and of course, both can fire at the same time when the demand for heat is high

Forest Industry Gets Fish Passage Training from MFS

Keith Kanoti, MFS water resources forester, and biologist Ben Naumen of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service recently taught a class on fish passages and stream crossings to foresters from two Maine woodland companies, Prentiss & Carlisle and Huber Resources. The class, which focused on designing stream crossings that protect important Atlantic salmon and brook trout habitat, is part of MFS's ongoing training program for Maine's forest products industry.



MFS fish passage workshop in Milford.

MFS developed the specialized, free training at the request of the industry as part of its "Best Management Practices" for the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Naumen in particular has been working with the two companies in the Pleasant River watershed area near the Katahdin Ironworks to repair and remove important stream crossings that are barriers to fish passage. The watershed is known to have some of the better-identified salmon and brook trout habitat that feed into the Penobscot River.

Some of the concepts taught by the two trainers include encouraging the creation of stream crossings that work for both the landowner and the stream and fish. It is recommended that crossings don't constrict the stream channel and that they allow fish to move through the stream for spawning, moving to cold water and escaping from

predators. Participants also learn about crossing structures, such as bridges, culverts, embedded culverts and half culverts.

About 80 industry representatives so far have been trained in workshops held in western, central and northern Maine. More classes will be held this spring, with about 200 participants trained when the workshop series is completed.

MFS Holds Outreach Workshop

As a member of the Maine Forest Working Group, a unique partnership of state, federal, and university forestry agencies, MFS has developed a workshop to help forestry service providers, such as land trusts and consulting foresters, reach out to Maine's forest landowners. The workshop, "Developing Effective Strategies to Reach Landowners," is designed to break down the barriers that keep forest landowners from getting the assistance they need and to support Maine's family-based forestland.

The workshop was held earlier this month with 38 participants – including consulting foresters, non-profits, federal and state governmental agencies, and land management companies attending the highly interactive event. A number of high-level presenters took part, including Brett Butler, a US Forest Service researcher; Dave Kittredge, a University of Massachusetts professor and Extension forester; and Mary Tyrrell, executive director of the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies Forestry. They provided information and strategies to allow workshop participants to develop more effective means to reach forest landowners.

Other speakers included representatives from the Kennebec Land Trust, Kennebec Woodlands Partnership, MFS, University of Maine Family Forest Research Unit, and Dirigo Timberlands, who outlined current efforts being made to reach and engage forest landowners throughout the state.

Two significant insights came out of the workshop; that Maine is using such techniques successfully to reach more forest landowners; and that consulting foresters are interested in using the techniques not only to reach their client base, but also to expand them and develop their businesses.

The workshop was sponsored by MFS, UMaine Family Forest Research Unit, UMaine Cooperative Extension, US Forest Service – State and Private Forestry, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Maine Geological Survey Holds Gem Trips

For the third year in a row, the Maine Geological Survey (MGS) organized several mineral-collecting trips to unique Maine sites for all those rock hounds out there. Woody Thompson, Maine Geological Survey physical geologist, organized five trips this year, with the last one held in October.



Mineral collecting at Newry.

The collection trips are so popular that applications are taken in advance and spaces on the trips are awarded by lottery. Participants have come from all over the Northeast to enjoy collecting minerals at famous localities such as the Newry tourmaline mines.

Three trips were run at Newry again this year to enable as many people as possible to look for tourmaline and other rare minerals at this scenic mountain top locality. Another highlight was the trip to Mt. Marie in Paris, where some very colorful gem

tourmaline recently was found. A film crew from public television was at Mt. Marie to



Beautiful tourmaline, the Maine state gem, found at Mt. Marie.

record the trip and interview Woody and mine owner Dennis Durgin about the mineral collecting hobby.

Information about the trips and the lottery process can be found on the MGS website:
<http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/explore/minerals/fieldtrips/fieldtrips.htm>

Maine Conservation Corps Recognizes Successful Year

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC), under BPL, held its annual Fall Recognition Day earlier in November to celebrate the accomplishments and service of its six field team trail crews and 26 environmental educators finishing their AmeriCorps terms of service.



MCC field team trail crew

Overall in 2011, MCC had 102 members from 27 different states, including Texas, Utah, Georgia, California, Florida and Colorado. A total of 32 percent of MCC members came from Maine.

During the summer and fall seasons, the MCC Field Team rehabilitated 40 miles of trail, built 191 rock steps, placed 109 stepping stones, constructed 2,225 feet of bog bridging, and dug 3,689 feet of side-hill bench. MCC environmental educators gave 425 presentations on energy conservation and the environment to nearly 11,000 Maine students.

In 2011, MCC engaged 435 community volunteers who contributed more than 4,500 hours towards local environmental and conservation projects. MCC thanks all its members, partners and volunteers for a great year.

BPL Fall Foliage Events

BPL shared the beauty of Maine's fall foliage season in 10 events this autumn. Peaks-Kenny State Park in Dover-Foxcroft, opened the events for Maine state parks this year, and despite the rain, MFS Forester Gordon Moore led a wonderful hike. One intrepid visitor, in Maine for a month from California and undeterred by the moody clouds and drizzle, drove up from South Portland. He won a copy of "Forest Trees of Maine," courtesy of MFS, for his exuberance and longest drive.



Vindya and Krishnan at Sebago Lake.

One New Jersey couple drove to Maine with an ambitious dose of fall foliage fever. After hearing about the BPL events, they planned their trip to Acadia National Park so they could attend the fall foliage hikes on either side of their Acadia visit. Vindya and Krishnan joined four events at Mount Blue, Kennebec Highlands, Bradbury Mountain, and Sebago Lake. This was their first visit to Maine, and they are planning to visit again. They also were given a copy of *FTM* for having the most passion for fall foliage and attending the most hikes.

In all, more than 100 people participated in the paddle, hikes, bike and ATV ride. Many Maine attendees were first-time park program participants. All participants expressed their appreciation for the

MFS foresters who led the fall foliage discussions and for BPL staff who coordinated and co-led the events. BPL would like to thank the event collaborators:

Androscoggin Land Trust Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, Sunrise Trail Coalition and Maine Forest Service. Plans already are under way next year's events.



Fall foliage bike group on the Down East Sunrise Trail near Schoodic Mountain.

Allagash Tramway Restoration Gets Under Way

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW) and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) teamed up this past summer to stabilize the portage trail at the historic tramway, a National Historic Site located between Chamberlain and Eagle lakes.



Tramway: Chamberlain Lake End, 1908

Two NFCT interns spent seven weeks working on the trail. They installed rock retainers, hauled gravel, and improved drainage on more than 1,000 feet of the trail. Stabilizing the portage trail was the first phase in the restoration of a section of the tramway. Funding for the trail improvements was provided by a Recreational Trails Program grant.

AWW rangers cleared a 25-foot section of the actual tramway rail bed last fall. A volunteer crew will grub out the rail bed next summer, and the reconstruction of a section of the tramway will take place in the fall of 2012.

The tramway -- essentially a miniature railroad pulled by a 6,000 foot cable loop -- was constructed in 1902. The steel “trucks” attached to the cable carried logs across the 3,000-foot strip of land between Eagle and Chamberlain lakes. As the logs dropped off at the Chamberlain end, each empty truck looped underneath to a lower track and returned to Eagle Lake for another load. The tramway worked remarkably well for more than six

seasons, hauling 100 million board feet before it was discontinued in 1907.

There has been tremendous support for the tramway restoration effort. Lumber and miniature railroad spikes already have been donated for the project. A generous \$2,000 gift has been received, and recently, a building contractor from St. Agatha called asking if he could help with the restoration project. Roger Moneau offered to organize two work groups next summer and fall and was very excited about the possibility of helping with the project.

Moneau told AWW Superintendent Matt LaRoche, “I never thought that this would happen in my lifetime.”



Tramway work crew.

The construction and operation of the tramway at such a remote location is truly a testament to the Yankee ingenuity used by the early lumber barons who needed to find a way to deliver Allagash timber to the Bangor sawmills.

Historic Buildings Restored, Recreated

Exciting work on the restoration and recreation of historic structures at two Maine state historic sites has been taking place in recent months.



Colburn House Barn

About one-third of the timber-framing work has been completed on the 19th-century barn, also housing a boat museum, at the Major Reuben Colburn House State Historic Site in Pittston. Work on the barn’s beams, sills and flooring was begun last year, and the full structure was jacked up about 4 feet off the ground.

Within a month or so, a contract for the remaining work will be signed and the barn is expected to be completed and open to the public again in June 2012. The Colburn house is an 18th-century Kennebec River homestead used by Benedict Arnold as his headquarters in 1775 for the disastrous Quebec expedition during the American Revolution.

The 1600s-era, wattle-and-daub recreated dwelling under construction at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site in New Harbor is looking more and more completed. Volunteers from the Carpenters Boat Shop in Bristol made and attached clapboards to the outside of the building earlier this month. The last major feature will be a thatched roof which will be added this spring.

Colonial Pemaquid, with its excellent museum, was the site of a 17th-century English fishing station from where fishermen shipped dried cod to Britain. Archaeological digs have revealed much about the colony.

Wattle and daub is a building material used for making walls, in which a woven lattice of wooden strips called wattle is daubed with a sticky material usually made of some combination of wet soil, clay, sand, animal dung and straw.

BPL staff members, along with the Friends of Colonial Pemaquid, currently are raising funds to build more of these period structures at the site.



Colonial Pemaquid wattle-and-daub house.

First Time Campers Winning Family Chosen

A lucky family from Scarborough is the winner of this year's First Time Campers grand prize raffle, drawn last month at the L.L.Bean flagship store in Freeport.



Rosemary Moser, L.L.Bean Community Relations director, draws the raffle winner, while Park Manager Andy Haskell holds the bag.

Ellen Matthews and her family won a complete set of camping equipment valued at \$1,000, courtesy of the iconic Maine store, which has sponsored First Time Campers for the past four years. The family first won a free weekend of camping this summer through the annual FTC program. They spent their free weekend at Bradbury Mountain State Park in Pownal.

The highly successful program is designed to help Maine families experience the fun and memories of family camping at Maine state parks. Maine families who never before have gone camping can enter the program to win the free weekend of camping; they are supported throughout the weekend by park staff.

More than 625 families entered the program this year, and 40 finalists were selected to spend a free camping weekend at one of 11 state park campgrounds. The name of the grand prize raffle winners was drawn by Rosemary Mosher, L.L.Bean Community Relations director, with help from Andy Haskell, park manager of Sebago Lake State Park, who organized this year's FTC program.

Project Canopy Director Receives Arbor Award

Jan Ames Santerre, Project Canopy director, under the Maine Forest Service (MFS) has been awarded the 2011 President's Award for the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (NEC-ISA). She received the award in October during the society's 45th annual conference and trade show held at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. She was one of three recipients who received the award from Tom Hoerth, chapter past president and arborist for the city of Bath.

The award is presented annually by the chapter president to those who have been inspiring professionally or personally during the president's career. Santerre received a turned maple bowl made from wood from a Bath tree. The President's Award recognized Santerre's leadership in Maine's community



Jan Ames Santerre (2nd from left), Tom Hoerth (2nd from right) and the two other award winners.

22 State House Station, 18 Elkins Lane, Harlow Building, Augusta, Maine

forestry program and her outstanding contributions to the field. As one of Project Canopy's most active communities, the city of Bath could not have afforded to do all that it does without the support of the state program, the past president said.

NEC-ISA is a prominent organization with a mission of supporting and providing education in the field of arboriculture, or the cultivation, management, preservation and study of trees for landscape purposes. Internationally, nationally and locally, the organization offers educational events, publications, scholarships and Arbor Day grants. The New England Chapter, based in Massachusetts, has about 750 members.

Project Canopy works with communities throughout Maine to encourage good tree management for urban and suburban areas. The program offers annual grants to municipalities, works with communities on tree management plans and provides education and resources.

Santerre joined the Maine Forest Service as Project Canopy director in 2008. She previously was community forestry specialist at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in forest biology from the University of Vermont.

Meet the MDOC – Jack Nicholas, Deputy Commissioner

Jack Nicholas has joined MDOC as the department's new deputy commissioner. Nicholas comes to his new position after serving as CEO for a private consulting firm that worked on financial and human resources issues with not-for-profit organizations.



Jack Nicholas

A former DHHS commissioner, CEO/CFO for Catholic Charities of Maine, and state budget officer, Nicholas is undertaking a number of projects on behalf of Commissioner Beardsley. They include: zero-based budgeting; strategic planning for MDOC, including the possible merger with the Maine Department of Agriculture; updating financial policies, procedures and internal control processes; and facilities planning and co-location, including the consolidation of facility use within the department and with other natural resource agencies.

On board since October, Nicholas said his greatest personal challenge since joining MDOC is finding out “who’s on first and what’s on second.” In a larger arena, the most significant challenge facing the department is “no different from what other departments are facing – trying to be successful and producing value for the public and taxpayers with limited resources.” That includes limited federal resources as well, he noted.

A former state budget analyst, Nicholas is well familiar with MDOC and said what he likes best is the enthusiasm of the department's staff. “Park managers, park rangers, foresters, forest rangers – they’re so highly enthusiastic about what they do. I love that,” the deputy commissioner said. “They are highly dedicated people. It would be great if all taxpayers knew how dedicated MDOC employees are.”

Nicholas recalled being able to travel around the state and looks forward again to getting out in the field. An avid fly fisherman who started tying flies when he was 12, Nicholas said he enjoys “rammin’ around in the woods.” One of his favorite Maine spots, other than his camp near Jackman, is Deboullie Public Reserved Land up in Aroostook County.

“The fly fishing is fantastic, there are beautiful ponds, and the forests are gorgeous,” he said about Deboullie. Nicholas, himself known as a “skilled raconteur,” said he also enjoys the ambiance of the old sporting camps and the old-time woodsmen and their storytelling.

Nicholas resides in Winthrop with his wife, Nancy, and has two adult daughters and three grandsons. Welcome, Jack, to the MDOC!

Transitions

Here is a list of our MDOC employees with the most longevity in state government service and some of our recent retirees. Thank you for all your years of dedication!

25 years: Matthew Hodgdon; Thomas W. Linscott; William J. Greaves; Michael E. Foley; Jon V. Blackstone; Thomas K. Weddle; and Stephen M. Dickson.

30 years: Jill A. French; Gary A. Cook Galen R. Sanborn; Jean L. Maheux; Susan L. Starrett; and Bruce C. Reed.

35 years: Willard R. Harris Jr.; Gale D. Ross; Merle E. Ring; Matthew E. LaRoche; and Michael Leighton.

40 years: Arlene Davis, Michael Devine; and Donald A. Cote.

45 years: Robert L. Hunt.

And our retirees: Paul Larrivee, 10 years; Jeannine Lapointe, 25 years; Wayne Seeley, 34 years; Peter Lammert, 36 years; and John Picher, 46 years.

Check This Out!

- It's that season again! If you're looking for some ideal holiday gifts for family and friends, don't forget Maine State Park Passes for the present that will continue to give throughout the year. Vehicle passes that allow all the occupants of up to a 1-ton/17 passenger vehicle entrance to Maine state parks for day use are only \$70; individual passes that allow entrance for one person for day use are \$35. The park passes are good all season long. There are lots of ways to buy your Maine State Park Pass, and the easiest way is by going to: <http://www.mainestateparkpass.com>
- Maine will take place in a nationwide celebration of state parks on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2012, with "First Day Hikes" at four Maine state parks. It will be the first time that all 50 states have collaborated on a single state park event on the same day. First Day Hikes represent opportunities for individuals and families to recreate close to home, as well as to foster connections to healthy lifestyles. Hikes will take place at Aroostook State Park, Maine's first state park, Presque Isle; Cobscook Bay State Park, Edmunds Township; Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, Freeport; and Popham Beach State Park, Phippsburg. Watch for more details!
- Speaking of winter fun, planning for our Take It Outside "Winter Family Fun Days" at Maine state parks is well under way with five great events! Most of the events include lunch as part of the very reasonable park admission. Here's a sneak preview, with more details to come.
 - Children's Ice Fishing Derby, Sunday, Jan. 15, Lake St. George State Park, Liberty;
 - Winter Family Fun Day, Saturday, Jan. 21, Cobscook Bay State Park, Edmunds Township;
 - Winter Family Fun Day, Saturday, Feb. 4, Mount Blue State Park, Weld;
 - Kids Ice Fishing Derby, Saturday, Feb. 18, Range Ponds State Park, Poland Spring;
 - And Winter Family Fun Day, Saturday, Feb. 25, Aroostook State Park, Presque Isle.**MORE details to come** - visit www.parksandlands.com



Coda: A Moose Tale

MFS Forest Ranger Sgt. Bruce Reed, stationed in Greenville, had such an extraordinary experience this summer involving a moose calf that it is worth sharing:

While on routine patrol near the north end of Brassua Lake, I checked on a snowmobile bridge of the South Branch of Brassua Stream that had been damaged by a motor vehicle. As I walked out onto the bridge, I noticed an animal leg stuck between two boards.

As I looked down, I realized it was the leg of a calf moose. The moose was hanging upside down in a hole made by the motor vehicle when it broke through the bridge.

I looked down, and the moose's ear twitched; then it looked up at me and made a squeaking noise.



I picked the moose up by its leg and lowered it to the ground under the bridge. I had to lower myself into the hole, as the broken boards had the little guy caged in.

I was able to calm the moose down and move some of the debris. I picked the moose up and carried it down to the stream and out from under the bridge. Then I laid the moose down in some grass on the stream bank and got some water in a pan that I had in my patrol vehicle.

I was able to get the moose to drink, and it started to eat some grass and leaves. Its leg was not broken, but it was a little stiff. The little moose could not walk very well due to being upside down for some time.

There was evidence of the mother being all around the bridge. As the moose continued to squeak, I heard what I assumed to be the mother coming towards the opposite side of the stream, so I returned to my vehicle and left.

I would not believe this if I had not been there myself!

