

**MDOC**

Week ending  
Dec. 26, 2008

# From the Field

Conserving Maine's Special Places for Maine People

22 State House Station, 18 Elkins Lane, Harlow Building, Augusta, Maine 04333 <http://www.maine.gov/doc>

## Maine Parks Outline 2008 Accomplishments with \$7.5 Million Maine State Parks Bond

### -- A Pictorial Assessment --



Bradbury Mountain State Park playground

This has been an eventful year for Maine state park improvements, according to John Picher, Bureau of Parks and Lands director of engineering and realty. Maine residents and legislators who overwhelmingly voted in favor of the bond can be proud of what has been done with the funds, and better yet, start enjoying the results this park season of 2009!

The accomplishments start with major new playgrounds that were completed on time and under budget at six state

parks: Two Lights, Bradbury Mountain, Sebago, Lake St. George, Moose Point, and Swan Lake. Engineering and



Peaks-Kenny Campground shower building

construction contracts were awarded for shower facilities at Rangeley Lake, Peaks-Kenny, and Lake St.

George. Dishwashing stations are located at each shower building. Beach restrooms were initiated at Damariscotta Lake, Lake St. George, and Popham Beach. Considerable water system, sanitary system, and power system work was done at all the building sites. Other picnic or beachfront parks getting flush toilets with septic systems for the first time include Damariscotta Lake and Moose Point State Parks.



Popham Beach - West Side of Building



Popham Beach - Entryway



Popham Beach interior -- Note the light tubes that channel sunlight to the interior. The building will employ glass blocks in the walls for added natural light. Louvers provide natural convective ventilation.

The largest buildings are being constructed at our flagship ocean park Popham Beach, according to Picher. There, two bathhouses -- unique to our park system -- are being constructed to replace old, holding-tank privies. The new structures have separate wings for men and ladies restroom and changing facilities, connected by a sheltered walkway.



Damariscotta Lake State Park bathhouse



Moose Point State Park, one of two new restroom buildings, replacing former outhouses

At Eagle Island State Historic site, the island home of Admiral Robert Peary, remedial work was completed on shoreline stabilization at the caretaker's cottage and masonry wall repairs on the East Bastion of the main house. Because Eagle Island suffered considerable damage in the 2007 Patriot's Day storm, FEMA funds supplemented bond dollars.



Eagle Island State Historic Site - Shoreline Erosion Protection



Masonry Wall (Bastion) Storm Damage Repairs, including stairway and landing replacement at the former workshop (left side of the picture).



The new Group Picnic Shelter at Lake St. George State Park. A new campground shower building also is being constructed at the park.

Extensive work is being done at the Fort Popham State Historic Site, Picher reported. For the Fort Popham masonry repairs Phase I, the project is repairing some glaring brick and stone masonry deficiencies. More work is needed in the future, the director stated.

This project will allow visitors to access the entire second floor. Safety fencing will be installed in second floor casemate openings to prevent falls.

Replacing missing, broken and loose bricks at Fort Popham







Fort Popham masonry repairs Phase 1

The multiple projects at Maine's state parks and historic sites for 2008 used \$5.5 million of the total \$7.5 million bond, Picher reported. For public convenience and safety, most major structural work was started after Labor Day. Park building and utility projects undertaken during 2008 are scheduled for public use in May 2009.

### **Maine Forest Service, Working Group Win Federal Award**

The Maine Forest Service, under the Maine Department of Conservation, has been honored for its unique approach to landowner education as a member of the Maine Forest Working Group. MFS was named as among four group winners of the third annual Two Chiefs' Partnership Awards presented by the federal government.

The Two Chiefs' awards, announced Dec. 8, are presented by the USDA Forest Service to recognize exemplary employees and projects from the Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, state forestry agencies and conservation districts who have worked collaboratively to support conservation and forest stewardship.

The Maine Forest Working Group consists of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine; U.S. Forest Service; state and private forestry; University of Maine Cooperative Extension; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area; MFS; and consulting foresters.

The group has actively promoted agroforestry in Maine for several years. Agroforestry is a concept in which working forests provide income from non-timber or specialty products and also provide conservation benefits, such as air and water quality, erosion control, fish and wildlife habitat, energy biomass/fuel, recreation and aesthetics.

The group has held a two-day, statewide agroforestry conference, and at least two regional workshops are held annually in locations around Maine. Audiences have primarily been family forest owners.

The next conference is being planned for 2009, the date still to be determined, according to MFS officials.

For more information, go to: [http://www.fs.fed.us/fstoday/081212/02National%20News/2\\_chiefs.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/fstoday/081212/02National%20News/2_chiefs.html)



### **LURC's Regular Business Meeting Schedule Changes**

The Land Use Regulation Commission, in keeping with a gubernatorial call to reduce spending, will hold fewer meetings in 2009, according to Catherine Carroll, LURC director.

The Commission will hold six meetings – one every other month – instead of 12, as it has done in recent years, Carroll announced. The reduction in the number of meetings is expected to save a total of about \$11,000 for the upcoming fiscal year, the director said.

The Commission's agendas will not be able to be doubled up, Carroll said. The commissioners will continue to review anything that is not statutorily delegated to the staff. Those responsibilities include: rule-making; re-zoning; appeals; variances; and ratifying enforcement cases.

Items will be placed on the Commission's agenda when they are complete and acceptable for the members' consideration, Carroll noted.

The next LURC meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Spectacular Events Center, Bangor. Subsequent meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every other month after that at the Bangor location. The dates are: March 4; May 6; July 1; Sept. 2; and Nov. 4.

All meetings start at 9:30 a.m.

The public still will be able to access the Commission's regular business meeting calendar, agendas, and audio recordings of previous meetings by going to the LURC website. On the day of the meeting a link will be posted, and the meetings will be streamed live over the Internet.

Full information about LURC's activities also is available online, as are applications in PDF form.

LURC staff members also are available to handle inquiries, applications and concerns by telephone, email or in person through appointments.

For more information, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc> or call: (207) 287-2631

Or email: [Catherine.M.Carroll@maine.gov](mailto:Catherine.M.Carroll@maine.gov)

## Historic Preservation Project Goes High-Tech

The state's park historian has received a \$45,000 grant to begin the high-tech preservation of significant historical documents and items, including the papers of Admiral Robert E. Peary, once stored in a closet at his Casco Bay home on Eagle Island.

The funds have been used to purchase state-of-the-art digitizing equipment which is being used to archive Peary's papers at the Harpswell Historical Society, as well as important items in the Colonial Pemaquid Archaeological Collection in Bristol, Maine. The preservation of the documents, some as mundane as grocery lists and others as important as a letter to President Theodore Roosevelt, begins in time for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peary's expedition to the North Pole in April 2009.

The digitizing equipment also will be provided to other historical organizations around the state to preserve additional collections, including the numerous images and documents related to Maine's historic sites and state parks. It also will be provided to a Bar Harbor coalition forming to preserve original maps of Mount Desert.

Dr. Tom Desjardin, historian for the Bureau of Parks and Lands, Maine Department of Conservation, recently received a \$45,000 combined grant from the Davis Family Foundation and the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.

Desjardin has implemented a project -- the Maine History Preservation Initiative -- to make digital reproductions of important documents and photographs. After being scanned, the digital reproductions will be made available to the public through the Maine Historical Society's "Maine Memory Network." The network is providing a platform on the Internet where each of the resulting images, along with descriptive data, can be displayed permanently

The digitizing equipment, which consists of a museum-quality Better Light "scanning back," already is in operation. The scanner can make particularly large images, including those of large wall maps and artifacts. It currently is being used at the Harpswell Historical Society on the Peary papers, Desjardin said.

The historic initiative also has been named as a testing site for the Gigapan panoramic imaging system, under the auspices of NASA and Carnegie Mellon University. The system now is now in Beta testing, with a handful of organizations around the world using and testing the system.

MHPI is one of those testing organizations, Desjardin said.

Examples of the panoramic images are available on the BPL website. Go to:

<http://maine.gov/doc/parks/gigapan.html>

For more information, go to: <http://www.mainehipi.org>



Historian Tom Desjardin shows David Hackett, president of the Harpswell Historical Society, how the digitizing equipment works.



The digitizing equipment

## Take It Outside! – Mark This Date!

Lake St. George State Park is the host of the first “Take It Outside!” event of 2009 -- a **children's ice fishing derby** on Sunday, January 18, 2009, according to Gary Best, Bureau of Parks and Lands interpretive planner

“Whether you have never been fishing or are an experienced fisherman, this is a great opportunity to spend a fun-filled day on the ice trying to hook the big one,” Best said. “We will provide everything you need to experience this exciting winter activity, including traps, bait etc. We'll even cut the hole in the ice for you.”



In addition to ice fishing, and to fill the time between flags, other winter activities will be offered as well. A warming hut, coffee and hot chocolate will be available all day. Lunch is provided. Prizes will be awarded for first fish, greatest length, total weight and more. Best also reminds participants to remember to dress

for the weather.

A special thanks goes to the following sponsors for making this event possible: Mt. Valley Sports, Liberty Sports, Hannaford Bros., and Wicked Joe Coffee.

To pre-register and for more information, call Lake St. George State Park at (207) 589-4255.

And save these dates for other upcoming “Take It Outside!” events:

- Feb. 7 at Mount Blue State Park;
- Feb. 21 at Aroostook State Park.

## Forest Service Loan Program helps Maine Loggers

The Maine Forest Service’s direct link logger loan program has provided more than \$2 million in low-interest loans to 13 logging contractors in 2008.



A Valmet 425 Hydrobuncher owned by A.W. Madden Inc. of Milford cuts on a Bureau of Parks and Lands lot in Bradley.

Since 2007, MFS and the Maine Municipal bond bank have partnered to provide Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds to provide low-interest rate financing for forestry equipment. The purpose of providing this financial incentive is to increase the use of “Best Management Practices (BMPs)” and environmentally friendly logging equipment in the logging industry. This, in turn, helps to protect and improve water quality in and around logging operations.

Individual logging firms that qualify for the program are eligible for a 2-percent interest rate reduction on up to \$400,000 worth of qualifying equipment purchases. Over the course of a typical five-year equipment loan, the interest rate reductions can result in up to \$30,000 in savings to the logger.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/water/direct\\_link\\_loan/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/water/direct_link_loan/index.html)

Or call Keith Kanoti at: (207) 287-1073

## Maine Snow Survey Sets New Site at High School

Robert Johnston, senior geologist with the Maine Geological Survey, reports that in mid-December, Maine Geological Survey staff, along with other Maine Snow Survey cooperators, traveled to Mt. Abram High School in Salem Township to establish a new snow survey site.

The new Salem site will be monitored by high school students from the school, and their data will be added to the more-than 65 measured sites in Maine. Science students at the school presently work with Nestle Waters



Jim Caldwell of the U.S. Geological Survey works with Mt. Abram High School students demonstrating the use of a federal snow tube to measure snow depth.

scientists to study the hydrology of an area around company springs and wells along the West Branch of the Carrabassett River.

Knowing how much snow falls on the site in a season and the water content of that snow are important components in the hydrologic study of the area, Johnston says.

The Maine Cooperative Snow Survey collects, interprets, and distributes information on the depth and water content of the snowpack in Maine. Information gathered is used to monitor storage in Maine reservoirs and in predicting and controlling flooding in Maine's rivers and streams.

Cooperators include staff from the Maine Geological Survey and Maine Forest Service in the Department of Conservation, U. S. Geological Survey, National Weather Service, New Brunswick and New Hampshire government officials, power generators and paper companies. The 2009 snow survey season

will begin in mid-January with the first measurements and continue until all the snow has melted in late spring.

## Clubs Face Grant Deadlines

Local snowmobile clubs are reminded that the deadline for applying for the Snowmobile Club Grant Program and the Capital Equipment Grant Program is fast approaching. Applications for both grants are due no later than Dec. 31, 2008.

The grants are run by the Off Road Vehicle Division, Bureau of Parks and Lands. The club grant provides funds for snowmobile trail maintenance, while the equipment grant provides funds to offset the cost of expensive trail grooming equipment.

Funds for the grants are provided through snowmobile registrations, handled by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Eligible clubs are funded according to the number of trail miles maintained, with a cap of 30 miles.

This year, eligible clubs will receive more funding per mile because of an increase in the cost of snowmobile registration. The increased trail funding is from \$110 to \$125 per mile for up to 30 miles of trail. The increased registration fee was requested by the Maine Snowmobile Association and approved by the state Legislature, specifically for the grant program.

It is the first increase in the grant awards seen in four years. The funding will go toward maintaining about 8,443 miles of club trails.

The equipment grant reimburses a percentage of the cost of trail grooming equipment and varies from year to year. Equipment must cost a minimum of \$3,000 per unit and be for the purpose of winter grooming of trails.

For more information about the grants, call the Snowmobile Program, Off Road Vehicle Division at: 287-4957 or 1-800-462-1019.

Or email: [Shannon.d.morin@maine.gov](mailto:Shannon.d.morin@maine.gov)

For more information, go to:

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/snowmobile/clubgrant>

## Maine's Best State Park

Down East magazine has announced in its latest edition, which you can read here, that Lily Bay State Park is the best state park.



Snowmobiling in Maine



Lily Bay State Park



<http://www.downeast.com/Down-East-Magazine/January-2009/Travel-and-Adventure-Best-State-Park>

With its views of Kineo and the great expanse of Moosehead Lake, it certainly is outstanding, but is it better than Two Lights? What about Cobscook Bay or Popham Beach?

Send an email to [your editor](#) and offer your opinion. We will enjoy printing some of your responses.

### **Restitution Ordered to Forest Owners in “Failure to Pay” Case**

Three loggers have been ordered to pay restitution of approximately \$7,600 in a Lincoln County District Court case. The case had been scheduled to go to trial on Dec. 11.

The landowners had agreed to have a small number of trees cut to create a view. The loggers, however, harvested a considerable area of white pine without providing any payments to the landowners.

The Maine Forest Service pursued the case under the relatively new statute that requires payments to be made to a landowner within 45 days of wood being trucked. In the investigation by MFS Forest Ranger Dan Skillin, 11 mill scale slips for logs harvested from the property were obtained. MFS District Forester Morten Moesswilde provided an estimate of stumpage owed to the landowners based on the scale slips, using average stumpage data collected routinely by MFS.

Confronted with the evidence and this estimate, the loggers agreed to pay restitution of the stumpage owed and settled prior to the scheduled trial.

MFS staff point out that this case provides an example of an avenue newly available to landowners when timber theft or unlawful cutting of trees statutes do not apply.

Because the landowners had authorized cutting of trees, but had neither insisted on a written contract nor heeded the advice of a private forester whom they had consulted early on in the process, the cutters were only held responsible for the estimated stumpage owed. The District Attorney’s Office, however, was able to pursue the case without the landowners having to sue in a civil proceeding, based on the cutters’ failure to pay for the wood within 45 days.

### **MFS to Participate in 2009 Agricultural Trades Show**

The Maine Forest Service will participate in the 2009 Agricultural Trades Show on Jan. 13-15 at the Augusta Civic Center.

The MFS will staff a booth with district foresters, entomologists and resource specialists. The division specialists will answer questions about trees, forest management, forested wildlife habitat, forest insect and disease issues, and other forest-related issues.

Participation in the show results in many requests for follow-up assistance or referrals from landowners representing hundreds, if not thousands of acres, in Maine.

### **Maine Forest Service Educator Appointed to the University of Maine Graduate Faculty**

Kevin Doran, MFS natural science educator, has been appointed to the University of Maine graduate faculty as an external faculty member.

Doran will participate in research titled: “The Forestry Community, Belief Systems and Consensus: Implications for Public Communication and Outreach.” This research is the result of a successful grant he wrote and submitted to the Northeastern States Research Cooperative.

The outcome of this study is expected to be improved understanding of the factors, including values and belief systems, that influence forest-related education throughout Maine and the Northern Forest.

The identification of consensus areas among the forestry community about what should be taught to the public will lead to a better foundation for educating the public about forestry issues. Researchers also anticipate that results from the public survey will suggest ways of improving teaching and learning effectiveness about forests and forestry.

## Maine Conservation Corps Welcomes New Volunteer and Marketing Leader

The Maine Conservation Corps, under the Bureau of Parks and Lands, recently welcomed AmeriCorps volunteer Sarah Gaffney of Vassalboro to serve as the volunteer and marketing leader. Gaffney holds a bachelor's degree from Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., in creative writing and environmental studies. She also served with the Maine Conservation Corps as a field team member in 2004. She and her husband, Steven Gaffney, maintain a 2-mile section of the Appalachian Trail on Saddleback Mountain.



Sarah Gaffney

The Maine Conservation Corps' mission is to complete conservation projects while engaging volunteers and supporting conservation employment and education. In her new position, Gaffney will promote the Maine Conservation Corps and coordinate its marketing efforts. In addition, she will focus on enlisting volunteers to serve with field teams and environmental educators on conservation, education, and outdoor recreation projects throughout the state of Maine.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Maine Conservation Corps can contact

Gaffney at (207) 624-6092 or [sarah.gaffney@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.gaffney@maine.gov).

## Maine Conservation Corps Holds Partner Meeting

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) on Thursday, Dec. 11, invited its partners to an informational meeting in Hallowell on the services available for conservation projects during the 2009 season.

Partners are those organizations that utilize the MCC's assistance to complete conservation projects, such as trail building, rehabilitation and/or planning. The projects have to be available to the public. Organizations become partners by submitting a proposal requesting MCC assistance.

The MCC provides either six- or three-person field teams and also offers trail planning assistance to help partners plan and budget accurately for a project. MCC partners include national parks, state-owned lands, municipalities, and non-profits all over the state of Maine. Recent projects have included work on the Appalachian Trail, in Bradbury Mountain State Park, and on Marshall Island.

During the meeting, Lester Kenway, field team program coordinator, discussed the types of projects MCC teams do, including the construction of new trail, stone and timber work and trails suitable for wheelchair use. Kenway also explained the MCC's wide range of available trail tools, as well as the training received by field team leaders and members. The MCC also has skilled senior team leaders and a field team assistant on board to support and work with teams on individual projects as needed.

To receive full consideration for a project proposal for the 2009 season, the deadline for applications is Jan. 2, 2009. In recent years, the number of project proposals has exceeded the Maine Conservation Corps' ability to provide teams, so it is recommended that potential partners submit their proposal as soon as possible.

There will be another informational meeting 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 15, at the NRSC building in Hallowell to answer questions and start preparations for the 2010 season.

For more information, contact Steven Gaffney at (207) 624-6088, [steven.gaffney@maine.gov](mailto:steven.gaffney@maine.gov) or Sara Knowles at (207) 624-6090, [sara.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:sara.knowles@maine.gov).

For more information, go to: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc>



## Forester to Hold Workshops, Teach Woodlot Class

In recent years more homeowners have looked to wood as a source to heat their homes. Firewood also has increased substantially in value. As a result, more people are looking to their woodlots to produce valuable



firewood. When done correctly, firewood can be harvested periodically without permanent disturbance to the natural environment and can even improve your woodlot.



MFS Forester Steve MacDonald will present methods landowners can use to improve their woodlot by harvesting firewood at a workshop at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Humboldt Field Research Institute and Eagle Hill Foundation, Steuben. The presentation will also cover other information participants will find useful in heating their homes with firewood. For more information, contact: Anne Favolise-Stanton at 207-546-2821.

MacDonald also is holding two compass/GPS workshops at the Maine Sea Coast Mission Downeast Campus in Cherryfield. Participants will learn to navigate in the woods. The workshops are free to the public, and families are welcome. Hand compasses and GPS's will be available for use through the Maine Forest Service, so everyone will have one for the workshops. A total of 25 compasses and GPSs will be available for use.

The workshops are 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 10, and Saturday, Jan. 24. at the campus on Weald Bethel Lane, Cherryfield. To register, call 441-4924 or emailing [stephen.macdonald@maine.gov](mailto:stephen.macdonald@maine.gov)

If that's not enough, MacDonald and MFS Forester Jim Ecker also will teach an adult ed class through Ellsworth Adult Education on woodlot management as an introduction for people interested in learning more about our forest resource and forest management. Topics covered will include forest management planning, tree and plant identification, forest measurements, compass and GPS skills, wildlife management, working with consulting foresters and professional loggers, common tree pests and diseases, forestry rules and regulations and much more.

The course will cost \$20, and meet from 6 to 8 pm Wednesdays, Feb. 4-April 1 at Ellsworth High School in Ellsworth. To register for this class, contact Ellsworth Adult Education at 667-6499.

*Editor's note: This is all typical of what MFS foresters do and the valuable information they can provide the public.*

## Forest Management: A Hare-Raising Experience

A new publication is available to landowners interested in managing habitat for New England cottontails (NEC). Cottontails are found in southern coastal Maine, and are listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered.

"A Landowner's Guide to New England Cottontail Habitat Management" was developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Environmental Defense Fund, and USFWS.

Working with the committee, MFS District Forester Ken Canfield reviewed and in large part rewrote the section entitled "Creating Young Forest Habitat" so that it clearly represented the forest management, regulatory, and forest operations challenges that landowners will face. It also urges landowners to seek professional forestry assistance with such operations. The guide is available at: <http://www.edf.org/cottontail>.



New England cottontail

## Available for Holiday Gift Giving and Post-holiday Enjoyment!



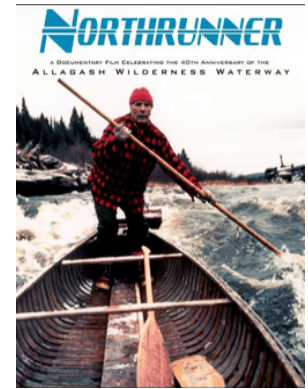
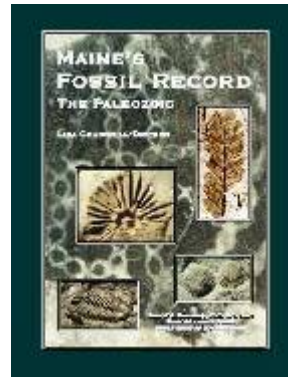
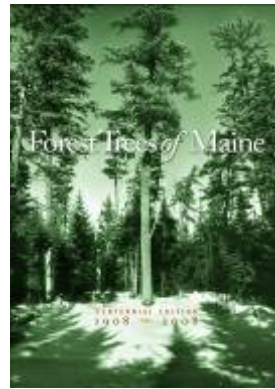
Commissioner McGowan, Mackenzi Keliher, MDOC special assistant, and author Tom Hanrahan pose with a Bean bear.

Still available - these Maine Department of Conservation books and DVD have been flying out of here like hot cakes on a logging camp breakfast table.

The department has been receiving numerous requests for all of them and is awaiting the third order of *Your Maine Lands*, on back-order until Jan. 8. Meanwhile, about 6,400 copies of *Forest Trees of Maine* have been sold to eager recipients.

Author Tom Hanrahan has been very busy holding book signings and meet-the-author events around the state, including a major event at L.L. Bean in Freeport, where he was joined by Commissioner Patrick McGowan.

An Associated Press article on the book has appeared in USA Today, the Detroit Free Press and numerous other newspapers around the country, so it's getting national attention!



These items are being promoted especially for the holiday gift-giving season. They include:

- *Your Maine Lands: Reflections of a Maine Guide* by Tom Hanrahan –available for a cost of \$12, which includes tax and shipping. NOTE: ON BACK-ORDER UNTIL JAN. 8
- *Forest Trees of Maine, Centennial Edition 1908-2008* – available for \$7. It also is available on a CD for the same price.
- *Maine's Fossil Record: The Paleozoic* by Lisa Churchill-Dickson – available for: Hardcover, \$40 plus \$2 sales tax; or soft cover, \$30 plus \$1.50 sales tax.
- *Northrunner: The Allagash Wilderness Waterway* -- available for \$16.50, which includes tax and shipping.

Make checks out to: **Treasurer, State of Maine.**

Mail checks to:

Gale Ross  
Maine Department of Conservation  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022  
(207) 287-5266

For more information, check out: <http://maine.gov/doc>



Psstt ... do you check out the MDOC website? It's updated regularly with media links, press releases and links to division web pages. Take a look!

*If you would like to get this newsletter, please send an email to: [Jeanne.curran@maine.gov](mailto:Jeanne.curran@maine.gov)*