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## DOC News, March 21, 1984

Maine Department of Conservation

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**DOC NEWS**

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NURSERY - Forests containing "super trees" may be in Maine's future as a result of a Tree Improvement Program currently being conducted at the Department's State Forest Nursery in Greenbush. The program involves collecting cuttings from mature, seed-producing trees exhibiting superior characteristics - fast growth, good form and resistance to insects and disease - and grafting them to smaller younger trees of the same species. After the trees are grafted, they will be grown for a year at the Nursery before being planted in forest tree "seed orchards", including one being established at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta. The orchards will eventually produce enough superior seed to supply all the needs of the State Nursery. According to Kathy Nitschke, the Nursery's geneticist, the grafted cuttings or scions from mature trees will continue to produce seeds even though they have become part of a young, immature tree, which is a big advantage since it's easier to collect cones from a tree that is ten feet tall than it is to collect them from one that's sixty feet tall. If you would like more information on any of the Nursery's programs, contact Ellis Sprague, Director of the Nursery at RR1, Box 22A, Passadumkeag; telephone 732-3440. He can also provide you with ordering information for the different species of tree and shrub seedlings that they offer for sale.

FOREST FIRE TRAINING - Fire fighters from throughout the State have participated in training sessions on a forest fire simulator, sponsored by DOC's Fire Control Division. The simulator creates forest fire situations through the use of animated pictures and radio communication. Each participant in the program is faced with two different fire fighting problems designed to test decision making. The simulator exercise represents an opportunity for the participants to check skills taught during the winter training program, comprised of five lessons covering orientation, fire behavior, organization and equipment planning, and techniques of attack. The sessions were coordinated by Russell Horning, Assistant Regional Ranger and Thomas Parent, Southern Regional Ranger.

WINTER WORKSHOP - Dennis Doiron, Director of the Maine Conservation Corps, will be attending the Winter Forestry Instructors' Workshop taking place at Squaw Mountain in Greenville on March 29, 30 and 31. The workshop is being sponsored by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to provide teachers of natural resource classes the opportunity to learn what is available to aid them in instructing their students. Dennis will speak on Maine Conservation Corps opportunities available to students.



MAINE  
LANDMARK  
DAY - Maine Landmark Day, sponsored by the Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation was held on March 20 at the State House. The event was organized to increase legislative appreciation for historic preservation. Sheila McDonald from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation was on hand to provide information about the Department's historic sites and to hand out material.

KENNISTON  
HONORED - Nancy Kenniston, former Director of DOC's Division of Administrative Services, who left here to take the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, is now leaving State service after 13 years to join Southworth, Inc., of Portland as Director of Finance and Administration. In order to wish Nancy well, a reception and dinner have been planned in her honor. The banquet will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on Tuesday, April 3 with a social hour beginning at 5:30 and a buffet dinner following at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please contact Becky Luce at DOT, Station # 16, telephone 289-2551 by March 28. For those of you who cannot attend but would like to send along greetings to Nancy, you may send letters or cards to Becky which will be placed in a book to be presented to her at the reception.

ACCIDENT  
PREVENTION  
COUNSELORS - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has selected two DOC pilots as counselors in the Maine Accident Prevention Program. Appointed were Harold Jones and Otis Gray. The pilots both fly fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters for the Fire Control Division. In addition to fighting fires, both Harold and Otis have flown numerous search and rescue missions. Harold, who has worked for the MFS for 15 years, has flown for 36 years, logging more than 7,000 hours of air time. Otis has been with the MFS for 6 years and with the Maine Army National Guard for 10. He has logged more than 4,000 hours in flight time. As counselors in this program, they will both volunteer to hold safety meetings with pilots and counsel those they observe doing things incorrectly.

GEOLOGISTS  
MEET - At the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America's Northeastern Section held in Providence, RI last week, Walter Anderson, Joe Kelley, Marc Loiselle, and Woody Thompson chaired technical sessions. Joe, Woody, and Andy Tolman presented papers. Also in attendance were Commissioner Anderson, Carolyn Lepage, and Cheryl Fontaine.

SPEAKERS - Rob Gardiner, Alec Giffen, and Andy Tolman spoke at the March 20th Water Resource Issues Conference held at the University of Maine at Orono.