MAINE'S

Warden Service

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME
AUGUSTA, MAINE
Canoes are still a valuable form of transportation for Wardens in our more remote areas.

Duties

New wardens are outfitted with uniforms and equipment at the Warden Service storehouse in Augusta and assigned to a vacant district where their training is initiated under the immediate supervision of the division supervisor and inspector.

The warden's duties are many and varied. In addition to law enforcement work, which requires him to spend many long hours in the field, both day and night, the warden works in cooperation with other divisions in the department's conservation program. Some of this cooperative work consists of aiding in stocking fish and pheasants, helping fishery or game biologists in making field studies and censuses, and lending a hand in many other programs. The warden often speaks at meetings of fish and game clubs and other groups; he frequently takes part in searches for lost persons; he investigates hunting and boating accidents; and he finds that Maine's deer herd comes in for attention the year around — the white-tails are involved in highway accidents in every month of the year, and there are times, notably in the late winter and early spring, when dogs that chase deer keep the warden on the go, too.

Tremendous growth in the field of pleasure boating on inland waters has led to the enactment of laws to regulate boating activities and help to promote boating safety.

Boat law enforcement is fast becoming one of the important duties of the Maine Warden Service.

Maine wardens are being equipped with larger and faster patrol boats to keep pace with the ever-increasing boating activities.

The Warden's Creed

Recognizing the responsibilities entrusted to me as a member of the Warden Service of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game of the State of Maine, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the fish and game of Maine, I pledge myself to perform my duties honestly and faithfully to the best of my ability and without fear, favor, or prejudice.

I will wage unceasing war against violation of the fish and game law in every form and will consider no sacrifice too great in the performance of my duty.

I will obey the laws of the United States of America, and of the State of Maine, and will support and defend their Constitutions against all enemies whomsoever, foreign or domestic. I will always be loyal to and uphold the honor of my organization, my state, and my country.

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Maine wardens are being equipped with larger and faster patrol boats to keep pace with the ever-increasing boating activities.

Wardens also enforce Maine's Litter Laws and regulations on snow-traveling vehicles.

An efficient and dependable warden should always be polite and courteous in his dealings with the public, for he is truly an emissary of not only the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game but of the whole State of Maine.

It is to the warden that the sportsmen look for aid, advice, and assistance that will enable them to enjoy their pursuits more fully while afield or afloat.

The Maine Warden Service enjoys a position of high regard and esteem, not only in this state, but also by the other law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.
The present day force of more than five modern float-equipped Cessna aircraft, motorized snow-sleds and a modern up-to-date flotilla of trailer-equipped water craft have helped deter or drastically curtail the actions of the present game law violators.

Fish stocking by plane is also done in waters inaccessible by hatchery trucks. Maine’s wardens have registered a century of efficient and respected service and stand ready to help and serve the modern day sportsman as well as apprehend the intentional game law violators.

Qualifications

The young man truly interested in becoming a member of the Maine Warden Service must be a male, United States citizen and a resident of the State of Maine, domiciled in this state for at least one year plus one-half the amount of the fines paid by game law violators that they had arrested.

Here new wardens receive valuable instructions in their duties and older wardens receive a refresher course.

Diligent work by the Warden Service plus such aids as a statewide two-way car radio network, five float-equipped Cesna aircraft, motorized snow-sleds and a modern up-to-date flotilla of trailer-equipped water craft have helped deter or drastically curtail the actions of the present game law violators.

The Warden Service first took to the air in 1937 when one 1937 gull-wing, float-equipped Stinson was put into service. This air arm has now progressed to five modern float-equipped Cesna 185's plus one smaller float-equipped Piper Cub. The Warden Flying Service has enabled the wardens in the more remote districts to patrol their respective areas more quickly and has been very beneficial in locating lost persons.

A combined modern hangar and mechanical work shop has been located at Moosehead Lake in Greenville where a full-time aircraft mechanic has been employed. Here three of the four aircraft are based, with the other two flying into Greenville for repairs and adjustments.

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Planes are of great value in reaching remote areas at any season of the year. Districts which not so long ago took many days to patrol may now be thoroughly covered in a matter of hours.

Wardens are equipped with snowmobiles to aid them in patrolling and checking ice fishermen. With these machines Wardens can cover much more area than was previously possible with snowshoes.

All candidates are subjected to careful investigation of character, dependability, tact and evidence of good judgment and must be physically fit.

An applicant must be a graduate of an approved secondary school or furnish satisfactory evidence that his education is the equivalent thereof as determined by regulations of the Maine State Department of Education.

Any honorably discharged veteran of military service who has made a passing grade in an examination and who qualifies for veterans’ preference under the rules of the State of Maine Department of Personnel has five points added to his final earned score.

The examination for appointment to the Maine Warden Service is given by the State Personnel Department, and an eligible roster is compiled from those successful in passing both the written and oral portions of the examination.

All new appointments to the Warden Service are made from a list of those men successfully passing the examination and only after they have passed a medical examination given at the department’s expense.

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