Warden Service
LIBRARY USE ONLY

MAINE'S
MAINE STATE LIBRARY

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 Fish and Game storehouse in Augusta and are 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 them to spend many long hours in the field, both day and night, the warden works in co-operation with other divisions in the department's conservation program.

Some of this co-operative 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. Wardens often speak at meetings of fish and game clubs and other groups; they frequently take part in searches for lost persons; they investigate hunting, snowmobile, and boating accidents; and they find 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 wardens 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 has fast become 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 boat activities.

Wardens also enforce Maine's Litter Laws and regulations on snow-traveling vehicles, as well as environmental laws including the Great Ponds Act.

Good wardens always have valuable services or duties to render or perform within their respective districts.

An efficient and dependable warden should always be polite and courteous in dealing with the public, for a warden 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 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 laws 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.

The Warden Rescue Team is comprised of district wardens specially trained in SCUBA Diving and Mountain Rescue work.
MAINE'S WARDEN SERVICE first started in the early 1820's, when a very few fish wardens patrolled the St. George and Sheepscot rivers, and has steadily progressed through the years to the present day force of more than 140 full-time, well-equipped, fish and game wardens.

The wardens of yesteryear endured many privations and hardships and received little co-operation from the public. Two wardens were murdered in the 1880's and several others were attacked. Game wardens of that time were paid little or nothing in the form of salaries as we know of them today, but were expected to get remunerated for their services from one-half the amount of the fines paid by game law violators that they had arrested.

The first warden training school was started in 1937 and annual sessions have been held ever since. For the past several years, an extensive 6-week session has been held at the University of Maine in Orono each winter where all new wardens receive training in varied subjects including self-defense, firearms, fish and game identification and court procedure.

The modern Warden Service has many of the latest innovations in crime detection and has availed itself of the Maine State Police and F.B.I. scientific laboratory services dealing with ballistics, and allied organizations. Warden Service now has a completely equipped laboratory at the University of Maine in Bangor in the charge of a Warden Specialist who has qualified as an expert in all types of meat identification. 

Diligent work by the Warden Service plus such aids as a statewide two-way car radio network, five float-equipped aircraft, motorized snow-sleds, and a modern up-to-date floatation of trailer-equipped watercraft have helped to 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 a full-time aircraft mechanic is employed. Here, three of the four aircraft are based, with the other two flying into Greenville for repairs and adjustments.

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

Any young person truly interested in becoming a member of the Maine Warden Service must be a United States citizen and a resident of the State of Maine, domiciled in this state for at least 6 months next preceding the date of application. An applicant shall be from twenty-one to twenty-nine years of age inclusive. Acceptable heights range from 5' 4" minimum to 6' 5" maximum for males, and 5' 0" minimum to 6' 0" maximum for females. Weight must be in proportion to height, and must be within ranges established for small, medium and large frames.

Because of the physical requirements of the job, to qualify for the position of Game Warden, candidates must execute satisfactorily a demonstration of physical agility including: Sit-ups, Push-ups, Pull-ups, Squat thrust, Standing broad jump and Quarter-mile run.

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

All applicants must be graduates of an approved secondary school or furnish satisfactory evidence that their 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 their 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, oral and agility portions of the examination.

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.

New boats, motors, and trailers give wardens the capability of covering more territory on routine patrol and also on boat law enforcement work.