



Conservation News

January 2011

Inside this issue:

<i>Farm Bill Program Deadlines</i>	2
<i>CRP Signup to be Held</i>	2
<i>Maine Agriculture Commissioner Nominee Named</i>	3
<i>Technical Service Provider Training Held</i>	3
<i>A Retrospective of Soil Survey in Maine: Complete at Age 100</i>	4
<i>Photos from Soil Survey of Baxter State Park</i>	5
<i>Earth Team Volunteers Can Help Get Conservation on the Ground</i>	6
<i>Personnel Corner</i>	7
<i>Civil Rights Corner</i>	9
<i>Safety Corner</i>	11
<i>2010 Digital Photo Contest Winners</i>	12

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

From the Office of the State Conservationist



It is hard to believe that calendar year 2011 is upon us. Time flies when you enjoy what you do...helping people help the land. I know that NRCS employees in Maine have been working very hard the past few months to accomplish multiple tasks—especially the challenge of ABC data input. Your efforts paid off and I thank you for what you did to ensure that we met the deadline. The data will help our agency look ahead at staffing needs, meet performance objectives, and remain efficient as we continue to put conservation on the ground.

We are now in the middle of some Farm Bill program and initiative signups and ranking periods. I know it is very demanding and confusing with all of the

different deadlines put before you...there doesn't seem to be any down time in work schedules. But I just want to assure you that all of your efforts and your commitment to conservation is certainly appreciated, not only by me, but at all levels of the agency. THANK YOU!

As we proceed with our tasks, we continue to work under a Continuing Resolution. A continuing resolution is a type of appropriations legislation used by Congress to fund government agencies if a formal appropriations bill has not been signed into law by the end of the Congressional fiscal year (October 1-September 30). The legislation takes the form of a joint resolution, and provides funding for existing federal programs at current or reduced levels. Until either the resolution expires or an appropriations bill is passed. Because of this system, Congress is required to pass separate spending bills every year to ensure the operation of government. If Congress fails to pass such a bill, or the President fails to sign it

into law, non-essential functions of the government will cease, as they are no longer allowed by law to spend money. In order to prevent the interruption of government services, Congress will often pass a continuing resolution. A continuing resolution must be passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by the President.

We have received our funding for the Mandatory Farm Bill Programs, but not for the Discretionary Programs (all other technical assistance programs, including Conservation Technical Assistance, or CTA). Therefore, we are operating under level funding in our Discretionary Programs until an appropriation bill is passed.

Thank you for everything that you do for conservation in Maine. Have a safe and enjoyable winter.


JUAN C. HERNANDEZ
 State Conservationist

Farm Bill Program Deadlines



Applications for Farm Bill programs and initiatives are accepted on a continuous basis; however, in order to be considered for the next round of funding, deadlines for the following programs/initiatives must be met:

- Maine NRCS has nearly \$1 million available to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands through the **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**. Applications will be accepted through **March 1, 2011**.
- Maine NRCS has \$2 million available through the **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program** to assist Maine forest landowners with forest land planning and management under the **New England-New York Forestry Initiative**. The forestry initiative will assist private landowners in conservation planning and management of their private forests to improve wildlife habitat, forest health and productivity, and water quality. Applications will be accepted through **March 1, 2011**.
- Applications are being accepted from organic producers and those transitioning to organic production to implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations. The **Organic Initiative** is being funded through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**, with an allocated budget of \$480,000. Through this initiative producers will receive assistance to implement conservation practices, like planting cover crops, establishing integrated pest management plans, or implementing nutrient management systems consistent with organic certification standards. Deadline for applications is **March 4, 2011**.
- Applications are being accepted for **On-Farm Energy Audits** through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** to help farmers conduct energy audits and improve their overall energy efficiency. The initiative continues to provide assistance to producers who have not yet conducted an on-farm energy audit, and now also provides assistance to help producers implement the energy conservation and efficiency recommendations that result. **Applications will be funded as requests are received, eligibility has been determined, and funding is available.**



CRP Signup to be Held—

by FSA Staff

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general signup is set to begin on March 14, 2011, and continue through April 15, 2011. During the signup period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land for CRP's competitive general signup at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Land currently not enrolled in CRP may be offered in this signup provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current CRP participants with con-

tracts expiring this fall may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this signup are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1, 2011.

FSA, which administers the CRP program, will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) that shows the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits)

and cost. Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

In addition to the general signup, CRP's continuous signup program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. More information can be found online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>



Maine Agriculture Commissioner Nominee Named

Governor Paul LePage has announced his nomination for the Department of Agriculture commissioner.

Walter Whitcomb, owner and operator of Springdale Jerseys Inc. in Waldo County, has been selected to lead the Department of Agriculture. The dairy farmer of 32 years also served six terms in the Maine House of Representatives from 1984 to 1996. In addition, Whitcomb has

served on several teams for federal political appointments regarding the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has also served on the Waldo Board of Selectmen and the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

“Walt has been a leader in agriculture policy, working with the Maine Dairy Industry Association,” said

LePage. “He has represented Maine’s farming interests in Washington and has worked closely with our congressional delegation. When it comes to Maine’s natural resource-based industries, we are looking for stewardship and leadership—we are going to leave the industries stronger and better positioned to compete and create jobs in the future.”

Technical Service Provider Training Held—by Sally Butler, Ecological Site Inventory Specialist



In early December, 26 private resource professionals from all over the state and Vermont came to Bangor to take classroom instruction in lieu of four AgLearn courses. The four courses are needed for Technical Service Providers to become certified to write Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) and provide technical assistance. Each course required 4 hours of instruction including a test. Half the class consisted of consulting foresters; the other participants came from a variety of professionals in agronomy, grazing, organic farming, biology and botany. The training was a success as everyone passed all of their tests!. There were multiple requests to put on another session for those people who couldn’t get into this training session.

NRCS instructors were: Sally Butler, former State Forester; Gary Shaffer, Archaeologist; Jim Johnson, Resource Conservationist; and Jeff Norment, Biologist.

Famous Quotable Quotes

Leadership....the ability to see what no one else sees, to listen when others talk and the ability to be optimistic when others are pessimistic.

— George W. Cummings

A Retrospective of Soil Survey in Maine: Complete at Age 100

- by Soil Scientists David Turcotte and Robert Evon, and State Soil Scientist Tony Jenkins

2010 marked the 100th anniversary of the publication of Maine's first Soil Survey, and the completion of the first draft initial soil survey.

First was the Soil Survey of the Caribou Area, issued in July, 1910. Not surprisingly, it focused on Maine's expanding potato region. The early soil surveys had but one purpose, to determine the suitability of soils for growing agricultural crops. The final paragraph of the report gives some sound advice on how farmers can improve their land by using crop rotation and organic matter soil amendment practices.

Maine's second Soil Survey project was of the Orono area (October, 1910). The survey had only two series: Bangor and Orono. The former covered all till, while the latter covered all forms of sediments (marine/lacustrine, outwash and alluvium). Three map units not linked to established soil series were also described: peat, muck and rough stony land.

The third survey in Maine was of the "Aroostook County Area". This encompassed a large portion of the cultivated areas of The County. Some of the described soil series names in that publication are still in use today: Caribou, Washburn, Easton, and Linneus. This survey was significant in that it was the first in the state to describe both soil morphology and genesis.

Following this was the Soil Survey of Cumberland County—the first county-wide survey conducted in the state with 21 map units and ten soil series! Subsequent to the Cumberland County survey were the county-wide soil surveys of York and Waldo (that have since been updated). The



first generation county surveys still in use for Maine are for Penobscot (Northern Part), Androscoggin and Sagadahoc, Kennebec, and Somerset (Southern Part).

Aerial photos were not used until 1937. Standardized Munsell color standards weren't used until 1955. Prior to that, color chip samples from the paint section of the Sears Roebuck catalogue were the only set of standards used. By 1943, several series that we recognize and use today were established, including Monarda, Burnham, Plaisted, Perham, Daigle and Thorndike.

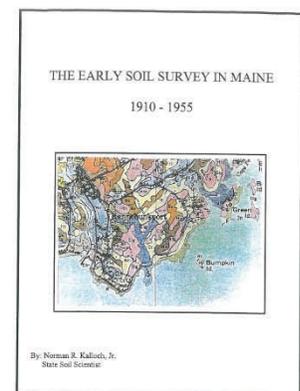
The plane table was used as the base map prior to the advent of aerial photos, and the relative lack of available topographic maps. Some of the very early surveys (and through the 1990s in western unorganized towns) were mapped at a scale of one inch to the mile.

A publication called "The Early Soil Survey in Maine: 1910-1955", by former SCS/NRCS State Soil Scientist Norman Kalloch, was presented in 1999, when Maine hosted the Northeast Soil Survey Work Planning Conference. A biography of Maine Soil Scientist John Arno's 1936-1976 career in National Cooperative Soil Survey was also presented. These publications provide insight into the early days of soil survey production in Maine, and can be accessed at <http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/SoilSurveyProgram.html>.

Maine completed initial field soil survey activities during the fall of 2010, and plans to highlight this at the next Northeast Cooperative Soil Survey Conference to be held here in 2012. We are currently working to increase the relevance of soil survey information to many areas of activity including forest management, environmental contaminant management, irrigation management, and community development.



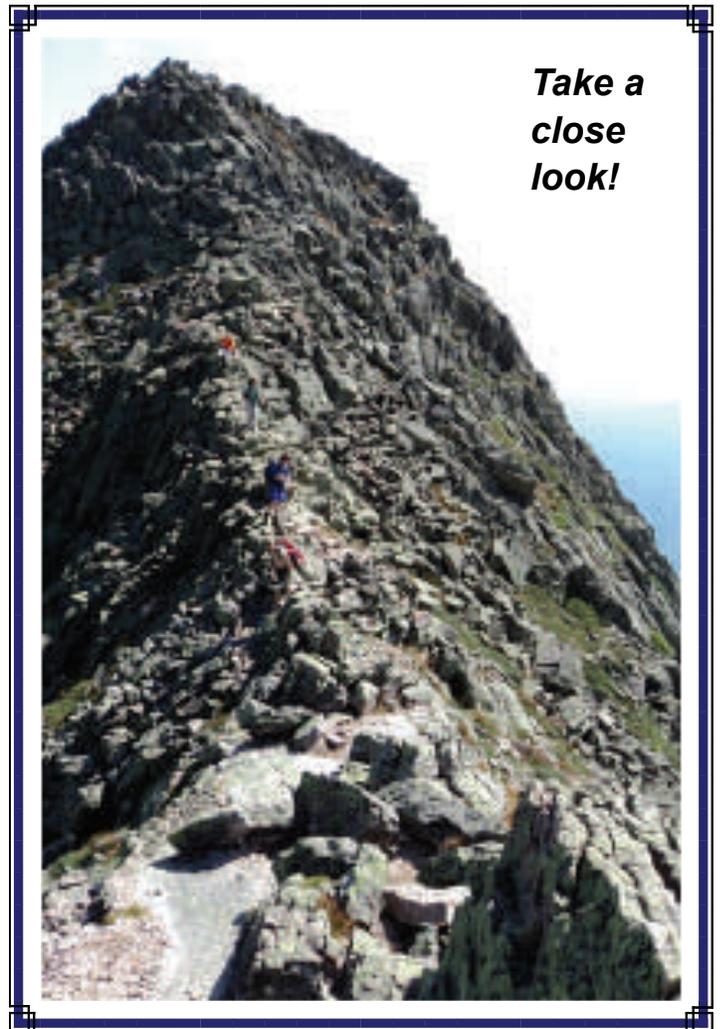
Chesuncook—
Maine's State Soil



Soil Survey of Baxter State Park, the last area to be surveyed in Maine.



Photos from Soil Survey of Baxter State Park





Earth Team Volunteers Can Help Get Conservation on the Ground

“We at NRCS often turn to Earth Team volunteers for assistance. Volunteers make us a more productive and effective agency, ultimately putting more conservation on the ground. Volunteers increase our organizational effectiveness and efficiency and help create a climate where private lands conservation will continue to succeed.” These are the words of NRCS Chief Dave White in the most recent issue of the Earth Team Connection Newsletter.

Volunteering began with the organization of conservation districts in 1937. In recognition of the interest and skills many Americans have in conservation, Congress passed legislation in 1981 permitting NRCS to use volunteers. In 1985, the volunteer effort was organized as the Earth Team, primarily due to the Farm Bill and the increased workload of NRCS.

As our workloads continue to increase, so do the pressures of our jobs. This is how volunteers can help save the day. What can you teach a volunteer to do which might save you hours a day?

It requires a bit of time and effort to find the right volunteer, and introduce them to our work, but the rewards are great.

Volunteers become involved for a variety of reasons, depending on the individual and the cause he or she is considering. The basic motivations that are often cited include:

- (1) Helping others;
- (2) Interest in the work or activity;

- (3) Wanting to learn and gain experience;
- (4) Have a lot of free time;
- (5) Devoted to the cause;
- (6) Know someone who was involved.

So, where do you start? Here are some simple planning and organization tips.

Step 1. Organize yourself, develop the proper “mindset” and ask specifically what it is you want a volunteer to do.

Step 2. Develop a “needs assessment”. An excellent time to do it is when you’re developing your annual business plan.

Step 3. If your office has a need for a volunteer, actively recruit. Rest assured, individuals and groups are ready to respond if you merely seek them out and say, “I need your help.”

Ideas of where to recruit include—

- High schools/colleges
- Religious organizations
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Vocational Rehab centers and agencies
- Scout troops and other youth groups
- People you know

Anyone 14 years or older can volunteer.

Note: If the Earth Team Volunteer is going to have access to sensitive information, USDA information, or the USDA network, please contact Human Resources at the State Office for required LincPass and Information Security Training requirements.

Once you have found a potential volunteer, here are some placing tips:

- Match volunteer skills to the job.
- Negotiate placement terms before having the application signed.
- Complete the paperwork.
- Welcome the volunteer to the Earth Team.

In Fiscal Year 2010, 9 of the 21 offices in Maine utilized volunteers through the Earth Team Volunteer Program. As a result, 237 volunteers (individuals and groups) donated 7,344 hours of their time to the conservation effort, either through NRCS or the Conservation District. The lead office, with 2,140 hours, was Skowhegan. Following close behind, was the Farmington office with 1,996 hours.

Note: Only Earth Team individual volunteers or group volunteers who have official applications on file in the State Office (OF-201a) can have their hours officially entered in the volunteer database. Volunteer hours need to be reported on the Earth Team Volunteer Time and Attendance Form NRCS-PER-004.

Personnel Corner

Personnel Changes

New Hires:

Alexander Zetterman, GS-3 Soil Conservation Technician WAE, Fort Kent Field Office, effective January 16, 2011,

Gerald Barnes, GS-12 State Forester, Bangor State Office, effective January 16, 2011.

Robert Bills, GS-6 Soil Conservation Technician Temporary Appointment, Lewiston Field Office, effective January 30, 2011.

Alexander Stace, GS-5 Soil Conservationist, South Paris Field Office, effective February 13, 2011.

Reassignments:

Sally Butler, GS-12 State Forester located at the Farmington Field Office, to Ecological Site Inventory Specialist, effective October 24, 2010.

Jade Gianforte, GS-5 Soil Conservationist Career Intern Program, South Paris Field Office, to Farmington Field Office effective January 30, 2011.

Anna Kettell, GS-9 Soil Conservationist, Farmington Field Office, to Scarborough Field Office, effective January 30, 2011.

Seth Jones, GS-9 Soil Conservationist, Bangor Field Office, to Skowhegan Field Office, effective February 13, 2011.

Chuck Penney, GS-9 Soil Conservationist, Belfast Field Office, to Bangor Field Office, effective February 13, 2011.

Retirement:

Geoffrey Coombs, GS-11 Resource Conservationist, Scarborough Field Office, effective January 31, 2011.

Meet New NRCS Employees



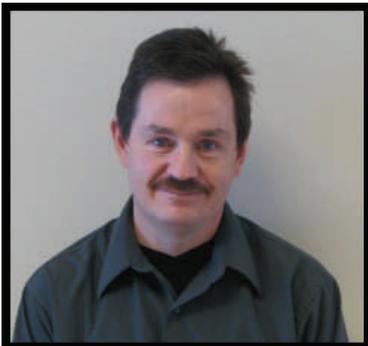
Welcome to **Jerry Jacobs**, Contracting Officer in the Maine State Office. Originally from Greene, Maine, Jerry comes to us from Alaska.

After graduating from high school in Greene, Jerry joined the Air Force, where his first assignment after training was at Loring Air Force Base in Limestone. He got married in 1988 to Tammy, and after Loring closed they moved to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. They loved the cold weather so much that they spent the last 13 years in Alaska, where he retired from the Air Force in 2006 after 20 years of active duty. Jerry then became Construction Flight Chief at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

After many years away from home they decided to move the family back home to Maine. Jerry and Tammy have three children: Zachary, 21; Taylor, 18; and Madison, 10. His family is still in Alaska, but they will be arriving after Taylor graduates from high school in May.

Jerry is a car guy...his hobbies and interests are "anything with a motor and wheels". He also enjoys woodworking.

Meet New NRCS Employees (continued)



Jerry Barnes was born and raised in Eastport. He graduated from Shead High School and the University of Maine with a B.S. in Forestry with a concentration in Timber Utilization.

After receiving his degree, Jerry was a Forester with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the Albuquerque Area Office in New Mexico. Later he came back to Maine as the Passamaquoddy Tribe's GIS Forester and then became their Forest Supervisor. After starting and operating a GIS consultant business, he returned to government service as the Penobscot Nation's GIS Coordinator before returning to the Southwest as the Reforestation Forester for the Santa Clara Pueblo after the Cerro Grande Fire. After several years in the Southwest, Jerry returned to Maine and once again held the position of the Passamaquoddy Forestry Supervisor. In 2005, he had the opportunity to work at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as the Fire Management Analyst and Fuels Management Analyst.

Jerry is happy to be back home in Maine and serving as NRCS' State Forester at the State Office.



Meet **Sam Wright**, Soil Conservationist in the Houlton Field Office. He was born and raised in Aroostook County on a family potato farm.

After receiving his B.S. in Natural Resources with a concentration in soil and water quality from the University of Maine, Sam worked for the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District as the Watershed Coordinator. Later he moved back to Aroostook County and served as an Agriculture Specialist for the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to coming to NRCS, Sam worked in the agricultural services industry as a technical representative in Aroostook County potato production.

Sam and his wife, Kate, have a 16-month old daughter, Ellis. Kate teaches science at a local middle school. Sam enjoys outdoor activities, especially winter backcountry expeditions and spring canoe trips.



Philip Quint, born and raised in Houlton, has lived in Aroostook County all of his life. He graduated from the University of Maine at Fort Kent with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in wildlife ecology.

After completing college Philip worked for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as a program technician for 18 months until accepting his current job with NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician in the Houlton Field Office.

Philip has been married to his wife, Casey, for almost three years and they live in Ludlow with their dog. Philip enjoys many outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, canoeing, sledding, golf, and spending time at their camp.

Civil Rights Corner

USDA Outreach Meetings Held in Aroostook County

— By Helena Swiatek, NRCS, and Brad Hansen, FSA — State Civil Rights Committee Members



Dave Tingley, District Conservationist at Fort Kent, tells about NRCS and its programs at the meeting in St. John Valley.

Learn how USDA can help you...from the soil up! That has been the theme for the three workshops recently completed in Aroostook County for local farmers and landowners. Like many areas of the country, Maine has suffered from loss of farmers and cultivated acres over the past 20 years. But as other landowners have moved in, USDA has also suffered from a lack of participation in agency programs. Aroostook County has struggled with this more than most. What to do?



Mike Mathers, FSA Farm Loan Manager in Aroostook County, gives presentation on FSA's programs and services at the Southern Aroostook session.

It's a challenge that most field offices face in some way, how to increase participation by underserved clientele. A workshop to bring in beginning farmers was originally the brainchild of Pauline Pare', ASTC of Operations and Helena Swiatek, DC. However, it quickly morphed into a collaborative effort between all USDA service center agencies (NRCS, FSA, RC&D, RD) and the District. The idea was simple: to reach a group that was typically not served by USDA and make them familiar with what we offer. Descriptions of some of the many programs, assistance, and information available through the various agencies were touched on by speakers from all the agencies — from cost-share programs to wind power, direct loans to conservation planning, direct payment programs to environmental monitoring. All of these topics and more were briefly explained. Acronyms were banned and all shared the same message, "Come in and see us."

Houlton held the first pilot session on November 4th and it was a resounding success. Thirty-two people attended the event, and all were unknown to any agency staff. After the event both FSA and NRCS's offices received an influx of customers signing up. Of particular interest in NRCS were high tunnels and forest management plans. Presque Isle held their workshop on January 12th with 20 people in attendance and Ft. Kent held theirs in Frenchville on January 26th with over 20 people in attendance.

Kept to a maximum of two hours, the workshops were short enough to keep attendees attention. Even though fast-paced, adequate information was shared to peak attendees curiosity and to whet their appetites for more. And that was one goal - to get attendees interested in visiting their local USDA office. Another equally important goal was to let attendees know that USDA is here to help - after all, serving the agricultural community is what USDA agencies have and will always be about.



Skip Babineau, RC&D Coordinator, St. John Aroostook RC&D, gives a briefing on RC&D efforts at the Central Aroostook session.



Casey Cote, former District Office Manager for the St. John Valley SWCD, opens up the session in St. John Valley with a review of the District and its programs and services.



FSA Receives the "Job Well Done" Award

—by Mary Anne Coffin, FSA, State Civil Rights Committee Member

FSA was presented the "Job Well Done" Award by Dr. Joe Leonard, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, at the Farm Loan Programs Annual Conference held in Albuquerque, NM. The award acknowledges FSA's outstanding accomplishment in significantly decreasing program civil rights complaints in Fiscal Year 2010. It is an important achievement for the agency in which all employees can take pride. The recognition reflects its success in assisting USDA achieve cultural transformation as part of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack's call for a "new era of civil rights." Each state office has received a plaque in recognition of the award.

Black History Month 2011 — by Wayne P. Munroe, Black SEPM

"African Americans and the Civil War" is the theme for 2011 Black History Month. My feature article for Black History Month shares a significant Black History account of the Tuskegee Airmen as documented by the "U.S. Air Force National Museum of History". I have chosen this topic in part because the Tuskegee Airmen History time period is very close to the early years of our Pioneer Conservation Agency the Soil Conservation Service and establishment of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Most important lessons from the Tuskegee Airmen include Courage, Dignity, Leadership, Respect and Heroic Service to the Military and USA.

"Top Guns - The Tuskegee Airmen"

In the late 1930s President Franklin D. Roosevelt anticipated that the United States could be drawn into a war with Europe. His administration, therefore, began a pilot training program in 1938 to create a reserve of trained civilian fliers in case of national emergency. After African-American leaders argued that blacks should share with whites the burden of defending the United States, the program was soon opened to African-Americans. In 1940 the Selective Training and Service Act banned racial discrimination in conscription, clearing the way for blacks to be trained for Air Corps service.

Tuskegee Institute, a black college founded in Alabama in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, participated in the Roosevelt administration's pilot training program. Tuskegee graduated its first civilian licensed pilots in May 1940 and was the only source of black military pilots in WWII.

When the war in Europe ended, the 332nd Fighter Group had shot down 112 enemy aircraft and destroyed another 150 on the ground. Also, they knocked out more than 600 railroad cars, and sank one destroyer and 40 boats and barges. Their losses included approximately 150 killed in combat or in accidents. During the war, Tuskegee had trained 992 pilots and sent 450 overseas. By any measure, the Tuskegee experiment was a resounding success.



The Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th Fighter Squadron, the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Medium Bombardment Group proved themselves equal to white fliers and support troops. They disproved assumptions that African-Americans were unsuited to the rigors of serving in a highly technical combat arm such as the USAAF. But despite proving themselves, black airmen still were segregated. The Tuskegee experiment made it obvious to many leaders, President Harry S. Truman in particular, that segregation by race in the military -- in addition to being morally wrong -- was simply inefficient and should be ended.

Truman's executive order 9981, of July 26, 1948, directed that the "highest standards of democracy" were essential in the armed services, and that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons...without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

The U.S. Air Force, having become a separate service in 1947 and benefiting from the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, became the leader in integrating the military. The USAF was the first service to erase the color line, thanks largely to the pioneering efforts and courageous legacy of the African-American airmen who showed their worth in combat in WWII.

Safety Corner

Inclement Weather Driving—Defensive Driving 101

Driving in inclement weather requires proper vehicle maintenance, pre-trip planning, specific driving skills and correct driving attitude. The following are some tips from AAA to help you in your winter travels. **TRAVEL SAFE!**



√ Winter Driving Tips:

- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking break in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

√ Skidding

- Avoid using cruise control in wet weather driving conditions.
- Look farther ahead and pay particular attention to “hot spots”: bridges, culverts, on and off ramps and elevated highways. Be alert for “Black Ice.”
- Avoid unusual driving maneuvers that could induce a skid.
- If you find yourself beginning to skid, ease up on the accelerator, keep a firm grip on the wheel, and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.



√ Winter Survival Kit 10-Point Checklist.

- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Blankets
- Booster Cables
- Ice scraper
- Small bag of abrasive material, such as sand or cat litter
- Small shovel
- Cell phone
- Can of de-icer
- Warning device, such as flares or reflective triangle
- Cloth or a roll of paper towels

√ Be Mentally Prepared

- Leave earlier for your destination.
- Use main roads or arteries whenever possible.
- Use your knowledge of the area to your advantage.
- Expect traffic to travel at a slower pace.

√ Visibility is the Key

- Clear off snow and ice from your vehicle before starting out.
- At intersections, pull up farther to increase visibility.
- Switch headlights on low beam to avoid glare and to ensure that taillights are on.

√ Increase Your Following Distance

- Slow down and increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Add more space as conditions worsen.
- Observe other vehicles to determine existing road conditions.

√ Remain Calm

- Don't let your emotions affect your driving.
- Realize that traffic moves at a slower pace during inclement weather.

√ Common Sense is the Key—Ask yourself the following questions:

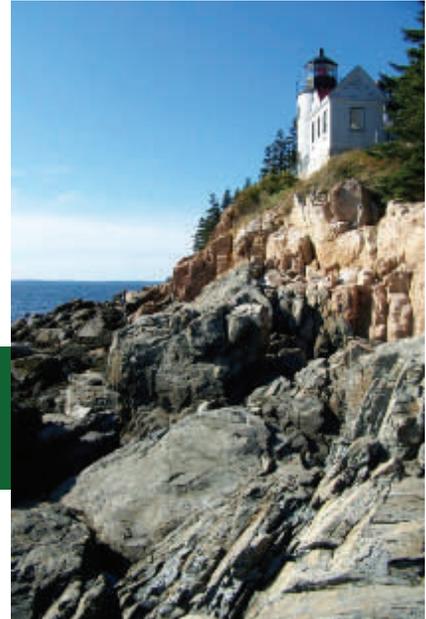
- Is this trip really necessary?
- Is my vehicle ready for this trip?
- Am I mentally and physically prepared to make this trip?

2010 Digital Photo Contest Winners

Maine's Tourism and Recreation



1st Place—Chimney Pond—Amanda Burton, Soil Conservationist, Augusta Field Office



2nd Place—Bass Harbor Headlight—Amanda Burton, Soil Conservationist, Augusta Field Office



3rd Place (Tie) - Enchantment of the Seas Portland Harbor—Wayne Munroe, District Conservationist, Scarborough



3rd Place (Tie) - Northern Terminus—Nick Butler, Soil Scientist, Dover-Foxcroft Soil Survey Office

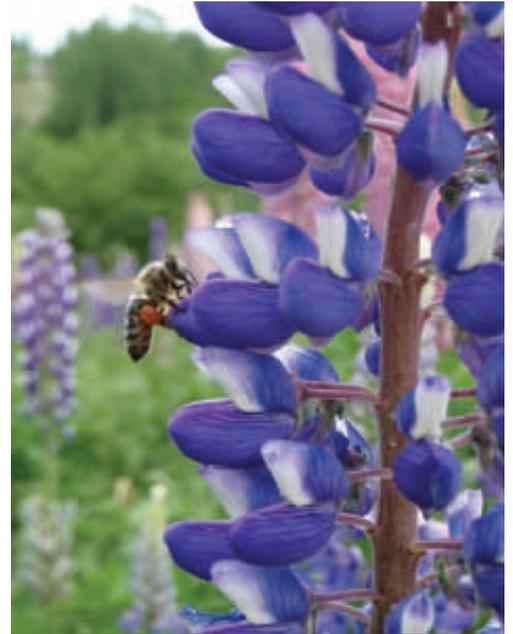


Honorable Mention—Russell Mountain—Nick Butler, Soil Scientist, Dover-Foxcroft Soil Survey Office

Maine's Wildlife



1st Place—Red Squirrel—
Amanda Burton, Soil Conservationist, Augusta Field Office



3rd Place—Lupinbeesmall—Megan Facciolo,
District Office Manager, Hancock County SWCD



2nd Place—Pickerel Frog—Amanda Burton,
Soil Conservationist, Augusta Field

Horticulture on Maine's Farms



1st Place—Managed Wild Blueberries—Dan Baumert, State Conservation Engineer, State Office



2nd Place—Mulching on Blueberry Fields—Grace Edwards,
Soil Conservationist, Machias Field Office

Soils of Maine



1st Place—Teaching Where Pumpkins Come From—Dave Wilkinson, Soil Resource Specialist, South Paris Field Office



2nd Place—Ricker Soils on Hamlin Ridge—Allison Montgomery, Soil Scientist, Presque Isle Soil Survey Office



3rd Place—Digging Soil Archaeologically—Gary Shaffer, Archaeologist, State Office

Congratulations to all of the winners!