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a portion of Wells*

E-Newsletter

1/9/09

State Issues:

First annual “Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness” conference

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has announced the first annual Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference to be held April 30 and May 1, 2009 at the Augusta Civic Center.

The conference is a partnership between the State Emergency Response Commission, MEMA, and the Maine Association of Local Emergency Managers. It will offer a wide range of workshops and information sessions to benefit:

- First responders
- Government officials
- Emergency managers
- Business leaders
- School administrators
- Health & Human Service providers
- Faith-based leaders
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) members

More details on the conference, including agenda and registration information, will be available soon on the MEMA website at <http://www.state.me.us/mema/> or by contacting MEMA at 207-624-4400.

Department of Conservation to hold first “Take It Outside!” event of 2009

The first “Take It Outside!” event of 2009, a children’s ice-fishing tournament, will be held on January 18 at Lake St. George State Park in Liberty. Prizes will be awarded for first fish, greatest length, total weight and more. The event will feature not only fishing, but other winter activities. A warming hut, coffee and hot chocolate will be available throughout the day. Lunch is provided. The following sponsors made the event possible: Mt. Valley Sports, Liberty Sports, Hannaford Brothers and Wicked Joe Coffee. To pre-register for the event and for more information, please contact Lake St. George State Park at (207) 589-4255.

“Take it Outside!” is an initiative led by Governor John E. Baldacci to encourage Maine’s children and families to reconnect with nature. Dates for upcoming events are :

- February 7 at Mount Blue State Park
- February 21 at Aroostook State Park

Maine Forest Service Invites Fifth-Grade Classrooms to Showcase Creativity

The Maine Forest Service invites fifth-grade pupils across the state to showcase their artistic talent — while learning about trees — with its annual Arbor Day National Poster Contest. Themed “Trees are Terrific ... in Cities and Towns,” the contest is cosponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota. Pupils are encouraged to learn about the roles that trees play as active contributors to the health and beauty of all communities and to show off their creative flair by designing a poster to reflect this year’s theme.

Last year, more than 75,000 fifth-grade classrooms received the materials. This year’s Maine state winner will receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond and a tree planted in his or her honor at their school. The pupil also will be a finalist in the national competition. National winners are announced on Arbor Day, Friday, April 24.

Fifth-grade educators and homeschoolers in Maine can sign up by contacting Loretta Huttman, state contest coordinator, by e-mail at: projectcanopy@roadrunner.com. The deadline for state contest submissions is Feb. 9, 2009.