

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# **Showing Respect: A Report on the First Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day**



Limington Wheelers ATV Club Cleanup Crew



## **Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day**

Activities such as snowmobiling, ATV riding, hunting, berry picking, hiking, and cross country skiing have all been enjoyed on private land in Maine for many years. This tradition, unique to Maine, is in danger of disappearing because of land abuse by a few people who show a serious lack of respect for open land access.

Within the last four years alone, at least 425 landowners across the state have requested more than 16,600 “Access by Permission Only” signs from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Many other landowners have gone the route of posting their land as “No Trespassing.”

The Landowners Relations Program is a joint program operated by the Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC) and the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (DIF&W) designed to help the relationship between private landowners and recreation groups. The LOR program director is responsible for coordinating efforts with the state’s natural resource agencies, other governmental agencies, landowners, and other interested groups, to ensure that the tradition of appropriate public use of public and private lands continues.

The LOR director works closely with the Governor’s Landowner and Sportsman Relations Advisory Committee. The program works with small and large landowners and various recreational users to prevent the improper use of private and public property, receive and resolve complaints, diminish conflicts, undertake outreach and assistance to landowners who permit public recreational access on their property. Delivery of services is assisted at the grassroots level through recreational clubs and organizations, such as the Maine Snowmobile Association, ATV Maine, Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, Maine Professional Guides Association, and sportsmen’s clubs.

The Advisory Committee has wrestled with the issue of trash dumping for years. One of the major complaints from landowners is illegal dumping, and there is strong concern that this has led and will continue to lead to further land closures.

To honor the tradition of open access on private land, the Maine Landowner Relations Program organized and coordinated a Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day on Sept. 25, 2010 with volunteers from local ATV and snowmobile clubs, land trust organizations and other groups collecting trash on designated private and public land where trash sites had been reported. This first cleanup day focused on Cumberland, Oxford, Kennebec, York, and Penobscot counties because of known dumping sites in those counties. The ultimate goal is to develop this event into an annual one in all of Maine’s 16 counties.

Early in 2010, a planning subcommittee was formed and the LOR program director wrote and received a \$4,000 grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to assist with expenses for the cleanup day.

The planning committee included representation from MDOC, DIF&W, State Planning Office, The Nature Conservancy, Central Maine Power Co., and Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM).

The sub-committee members implemented a work plan to do regional cleanups as a pilot project for this first year. They decided to limit the outreach to five or six counties where some sites and problems already were identified. The LOR director did extensive outreach through letters, emails and phone calls to various landowners, including to SWOAM, the Maine Farm Bureau, and the Maine Forest Products Council, which notified their members.

The first Cleanup Day was an unqualified success, with a total of 56 sites in 12 towns improved through the hard work of 152 people who contributed more than 616 hours of their time. A whopping **46 tons of garbage** and discarded items, including more than **16 tons of tires**, were accumulated for disposal.

Participants included club members, land trust members, and Boy Scouts, with even the town of Hampden taking part on a municipal level to clean up an old industrial site. The crews found items usually found at obscure dump sites – mattresses, lots of trash, old clothing and household junk. Some of the more unusual items hauled away were: an old swimming pool with a heater and sand filter; old toilets; bait bags, netting and marine debris; and a freezer full of old food.

Some of the volunteer groups made the effort into a social event, rewarding themselves with picnic barbeques. In Limington, the barbeque was done by the local ATV club; in Standish, the local Kiwanis Club hosted the outdoor feed; and in Hampden, the town sponsored the barbeque.

The cleanup effort received good media coverage, with articles appearing in newspapers and online as well as TV reports.

Response from both participants and landowners to the event was very positive, so much so that two landowners actually decided to join their local ATV clubs because they were so impressed by what the clubs had done by taking the initiative to clean up someone else's land. The Town of Limington also posted new signs warning of stiff penalties for violators for dumping at the newly cleaned sites.

Because of the success of this Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day, we plan to make it an annual event, contingent on grant money. The next Cleanup Day will be held this spring, and it is anticipated that more landowners and organizations will take part.

**Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day Sub-Committee Members**

Alice Richards	Central Maine Power Co.
Bob Duplessie	Landowner Relations Program - Maine Department of Conservation (MDOC) & Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDI&W)
Brian Bronson	MDOC, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, Division of Off-Road Vehicles
Carl Van Husen	Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
Dan Grenier	The Nature Conservancy
Sam Morris	State Planning Office
Scott Ramsay	MDOC, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, Division of Off-Road Vehicles
Steve Allarie	MDI&W, Maine Warden Service
Doug Denico	Chair, Governor's Landowner and Sportsman Relations Advisory Committee



## Summary of Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day

TOWN	NO. OF SITES	NO. OF LANDOWNERS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS, AFFILIATION	HOURS SPENT	NO. OF TIRES	AMOUNT CLEANED UP
Limington	14	3	38 (Limington Wheelers ATV Club)	250-plus	490	13,370 lbs.
Waterboro	2	2	2 (Ossippe Mountainers Snowmobile Club)	8		1,200 lbs.
Waterford	10	1	9 (Pulpit Rock Trail Blazahs)	27	125	2,200 lbs.
Sebago	2	1 (DIF&W/WMA)	16 (12 Boy Scouts and 4 leaders)	48	13	9,000 lbs.
Standish	8	6	22 (Standish Sno-Seekers Snowmobile Club; Standish/Gorham ATV Club)	78	185	12,000 lbs.
South Portland	1 (South Portland Greenbelt Trail)	1	14 (Eastern Trail Alliance Land Trust)	12	4	350 lbs.
Hampden	3	3	28 (Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club; Penobscot Valley 4WD Club, including 6 town employees)	112	322	14,000 lbs.
Orono	2	2	8 (Orono Land Trust)	11	3	320 lbs.
Veazie	1	1	2 (Orono Land Trust)	7		200 lbs.
Old Town	2	2	4 (Orono Land Trust)	2	3	50 lbs.
Winslow	1	1	7 (Fort Halifax Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club. w/2 pickup trucks)	21	36	2,000 lbs.
Oxford	12 (on 1 large parcel)	1	10 (Oxford Trail Ryders ATV Club; Rock-O-Dundee Snowmobile Club)	40	241	5,000 lbs.
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>56 sites in 12 towns</b>	<b>24 landowners</b>	<b>152 participants</b>	<b>616-plus hours spent</b>	<b>1,422 tires (16.121 tons)</b>	<b>30 tons</b>



## **Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day Media Coverage**

### **Media coverage related to Cleanup Day:**

- WCSH-6 & WLBZ-2 television – Sept. 13 newscast with Bill Green and article posted to the online website;
- WABI 5 – News story and website posting - Sept. 23;
- WQCB FM – Q 106.5, Brewer – Sept. 21-22;
- Central Maine Radio News Bureau – news report for five radio stations;
- Kennebec Journal Newspaper – Sept. 22 extensive article;
- Village Soup /Capital Weekly newspapers, Sept. 23, also website posting -- extensive article;
- The Valley Voice online news – Sept. 23 extensive article;
- Lakes Region Newspaper
- Portland Sunday Telegram, Lewiston Sun Journal, Bangor Daily News – brief AP article on Sept. 26 and 27;
- ATV Maine - October Newsletter - Cleanup Day Statistics & Media Advisory
- MDOC Facebook Home page - Cleanup Day Statistics & Media Advisory
- Limington Wheelers ATV Club – Facebook posting with photos  
<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=29299&id=127937227246026>





# Land Abuse Sites around the State





## Hampden Cleanup Sites – Before and After





## Sebago Cleanup Sites – Before and After Cleanup





## Limington Sites



Limington – Before Cleanup



Dirt Road Blocked to  
Prevent Dumping by Trucks



Limington – Cleanup,  
Before (above), After (below)





## Crews at Work

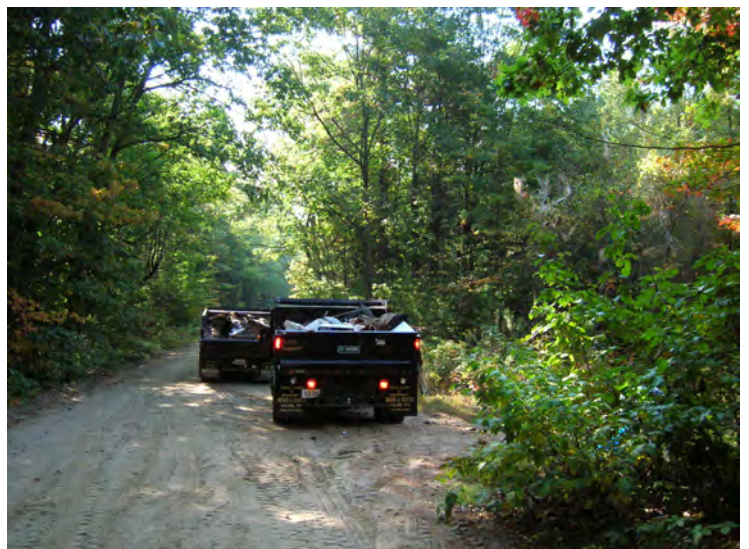


Waterford Crew and Pickup Trucks

Limington Crews at Work during the Cleanup



New Signs Posted by the Town of Limington after the Cleanup Event



## **Email Response to Landowner Appreciation Cleanup Day**

**From:** Tim Sawyer [mailto:tsawyer@chadbournetreefarms.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2010 12:57 PM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** Re: Addresses for Team Leaders for Clean Up Day

Bob,  
Thank you very much for the list of contact people to thank for their efforts in the Landowner Clean-up Day activities. Jerry Major called me after he received his thank you letter to thank us for allowing them to travel over CTF land. Also, thank you very much for all of your efforts in planning, organizing, and following through to make this clean-up so successful.  
Chadbourn Tree Farms really appreciates this effort which has taken so much time and energy to ensure its success. Again, Thank you.

Tim Sawyer, Forester,  
Chadbourn Tree Farms, LLC

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**From:** Maine Quality Homes [mailto:mqh@fairpoint.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 17, 2010 7:29 PM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Statistics for Clean Up day.doc

This is very impressive. Nice Job Bob. Rich Merk

Rich Merk  
Maine Quality Homes, LLC  
P O Box 69  
Casco, Maine 04015-0069  
Office 207-627-4102  
Cell 207-415-1628

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**From:** Al Cowperthwaite [mailto:al@northmainewoods.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 11:17 AM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Statistics for Clean Up day.doc

Great effort Bob!  
Just Great!  
Al

Al Cowperthwaite  
Executive Director  
North Maine Woods Inc.

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**From:** Richard, Jerome [mailto:Jerome.Richard@sappi.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 1:48 PM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Media Advisory - Landowner Appreciation Clean Up Day

Great job Bob.

**Jerome Richard, P.E.**  
Sr. Project Engineer/Facilities Engineer  
Sappi Fine Paper - North America  
1329 Waterville Road  
Skowhegan, ME 04976  
(207) 238-7838  
(207) 238-3359 (Fax)

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**From:** Richards, Alice D. [mailto:Alice.Richards@cmpco.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 2:41 PM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Media Advisory - Landowner Appreciation Clean Up Day

Great article! I plan to share this with CMP and hope that CMP can participate with property and volunteers in next year's Clean Up Day.

Thanks, Alice

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**From:** Tilberg, Karin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010 11:13 AM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Statistics for Clean Up day.doc

Good work Bob! Best, Karin

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**From:** Allarie, Steve  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** Duplessie, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Media Advisory - Landowner Appreciation Clean Up Day

Great job Bob, give yourself credit for this detail. Steve

Steve P. Allarie

Maine Warden Service  
District Game Warden

358 Shaker Road  
Gray, Maine 04039  
207-657-2345



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-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel Grenier [mailto:dgrenier@TNC.ORG]

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 8:27 AM

To: Duplessie, Robert

Subject: RE: Media Advisory - Landowner Appreciation Clean Up Day

Extremely well done Bob... Nice job!

I had a meeting yesterday with parties involved with Cobscook Trails (have you ever seen that trail guide? very cool...) and shared some of your success. I think next cleanup day, we could organize a hub in this area. There seems to be interest... Regardless, all the land managers around the table were very impressed with this effort. You should be very proud!

-Dan

Daniel J. Grenier  
Maine Preserves Manager  
The Nature Conservancy in Maine  
14 Maine Street  
Brunswick, ME 04011

Tel. 207-729-5181

