

Member News: Maine Drilling & Blasting Still Emphasizing Local Growth One-Half Century Later

Maine Drilling & Blasting celebrates the importance of local service to its own success over the past half-century by establishing named scholarships at local universities and technical colleges throughout its service area.

For Maine Drilling & Blasting, it all started with service. Hard work, honesty and quality service were the simple yet sacred principles upon which Ted Purington, Sr. and his wife, Judy, founded the company in Gardiner, ME, back in 1966. Throughout the years that followed, the Company expanded its footprint from Maine to New England, then on through the Northeast, and now through the Mid-Atlantic region. During this growth, MD&B's founding principles remained constant, as did MD&B's deliberate focus on local service. "We've always worked to grow regional markets with local people," explains Company President & CEO, Bill Purington. "That means local employees and resources for supply and distribution. We've made it a point to commit to a local presence wherever we go. That's how we started; that's how we operate today."

In honor of MD&B's 50th Anniversary, the Company has established recurring scholarships at five educational institutions, which include the University of Maine, Central Connecticut State University, the Pennsylvania College of Technology, University of Massachusetts – Lowell, and Vermont Technical College. \$1,000 will be awarded per year for five years at each institution to provide financial assistance to students who are enrolled full-time and majoring in civil engineering technology or construction management. The scholarships have both academic and need-based criteria. First awards of the committed \$25,000 total will generally be made in the fall of 2016. However, the institutions will promote the scholarships in the spring of 2016, coinciding with Maine Drilling & Blasting's start-up in March 50 years ago.

DES to Attend Environment Committee Meeting

On March 1st, at 2 PM, the AGC of NH Environment Committee will be holding a meeting featuring guest speakers Lori Sommer and Mary Ann Tilton of the Department of Environmental Services. Lori and Mary Ann will be discussing the ARM Fund and other Wetlands rulemaking issues. Committee chairman Jim Gove has prepared a list of questions for the guests to address, which are as follows:

- Please go through in detail the math of determining the in-lieu fee payment for a project, the equation used, and how each element relates back to either the law

or to the rule. We are primarily interested in wetland mitigation, but I think a review of the stream mitigation would also be good.

- What projects have applied for potential payments but don't make it? What are the typical downfalls in an application? How many of the applications have come from Towns over the years and how many have been successful?
- How long are the funds kept in the ARM account until used? What is the average and what is the longest time that funds have been held?
- How can we make the towns more responsible for finding preservation lands that fit the mitigation program?
- How have the feds treated the holding of funds in the account? Are they requiring that funds be expended in a specific time frame?
- Have funds from wetlands been used in stream restoration and visa versa?
- At one time the DES would only accept conservation easements for preservation. Has that changed or been relaxed? Are deed restrictions now possible as compensatory mitigation preservation of upland buffers?
- If yes, does DES get named in some way in the deed language?
- Looking ahead, will DES be addressing any of the current secondary impact issues that the Corps has or the discrepancy between the DES and Corps ratios?

All members are invited to attend the committee meeting. If you are interested, please call (603) 225-2701.

2016 AGC of NH Flag Training Seminar

The AGC of NH will be holding its next "Train the Trainer" Flag Training Course on Wednesday, March 30th, beginning at 8:30 AM. The course will be held at the association's office in Bow, NH, and will be instructed by Gary Abbott of the AGC. The class covers NH DOT regulations on flag person training, proper use of equipment, placement of flaggers on the site, and more.

Course materials include a USB flash drive of helpful forms, a video clip, a template you may use as a guideline when preparing your own flag training completion cards, and other useful materials to help you conduct your internal trainings.

All participants who complete the course and pass a short exam will receive a pocket card signifying course completion. The AGC of NH member price is \$75 per person or \$150 per person for nonmembers. To register, please submit the form on page 9.