

## Commissioner's Column

### There are many shades of green

Do you recall Kermit the Frog lamenting in song that "it's not easy being green"? As Earth Day quickly approaches, there seems to be some truth to Kermit's lyrics that green seems to "blend in with so many other ordinary things." But I disagree with Kermit that people are passing over the green message because it doesn't stand out. On the contrary, I would argue that being green has been woven into our daily lives, and taking actions that are beneficial to our environment are accepted and encouraged, and are helping to create a better future.

For many of us being green is a personal choice because of a connection we have to the earth. As Kermit also mentions in his song, "green is the color of spring ... green can be big like a mountain or important like a river or tall like a tree." In fact, one of the ways that I connect with the environment is hiking and skiing the many mountains of our state with my family. How do you connect with the environment? Do you enjoy the mountains, lakes, forests or seashore? Perhaps you could reconnect with the earth by visiting one or more of the 67 state parks around New Hampshire. They offer an abundance of opportunities to explore the diverse and scenic environment of our beautiful state. A

**Commissioner,** *continued on page 8*



### Recent greenhouse fire highlights one of DES's many investigative roles

The DES Spill Response and Complaint Investigation Section responds to and investigates a wide variety of petroleum and hazardous waste spills resulting from car accidents, home heating oil spills, airplane crashes, illegal handling and disposal of infectious wastes, inspection of auto salvage yards, asbestos disposal, leaking underground and leaking aboveground storage tanks, and ... greenhouse fires.

At 3 o'clock in the morning of January 21, several greenhouses were reported engulfed in flames at Pleasant View Gardens, a commercial nursery located in Loudon. After the fire had been all but extinguished, Loudon Fire Chief Burr contacted DES Spill Response for assistance. Burr told DES's Ray Reimold that the section of the building that stores pesticides, herbicides and fungicides was still on fire with a column of smoke rising off it. Reimold apprised the state's Pesticide Board and the DES Air Resources Division of the situation and then responded to the scene.

Once at the nursery, Reimold met with Chief Burr, representatives of the State Fire Marshall's Office, Clean Harbors Environmental Services of Bow, and Pleasant View Gardens to review the inventory and other associated paperwork of chemicals thought to have been stored in the section still burning. After inspecting the area and discussing wind direction, precipitation, chemicals involved in the fire and other factors, the decision was made to use Class A foam to extinguish the fire. This would limit the amount of water required and thereby minimize the possible spreading of contaminants through water runoff. By 4 p.m. the fire was extinguished.

**Greenhouse Fire,** *continued on page 2*

## DES joins in anthrax investigation

During the recent investigation of a rare case of anthrax in New Hampshire, the DES Spill Response and Complaint Investigation Section provided important support services to the NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS). The case, which received extensive local and regional press coverage, involved a young New Hampshire woman who is believed to have contracted gastrointestinal anthrax at a drum circle event held at the United Campus Ministries Waysmeet Center in Durham. Though rare, drums made with natural animal skins obtained from countries where anthrax is prevalent can be contaminated with anthrax spores.

New Hampshire officials were contacted on December 24 and informed of the woman's diagnosis. DES officials immediately began working closely with DPHS, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Environmental Protection Agency, the NH Department of Safety, the NH National Guard Civil Support Team, and local officials on a fast-paced epidemiological investigation.

DES's work focused initially on coordinating sampling efforts at the Waysmeet Center, in order to test the interior of the building and several drums used in the drum circle event for the presence of anthrax spores. Concurrently, efforts were made to identify, collect and test drums from the event that were out in the community. Following positive test results for two drums at the Waysmeet Center, and DPHS's quarantine of the building, DES began intensive planning efforts with USEPA, CDC and DPHS to develop a detailed environmental sampling plan for the building. The purpose of the plan was to further assist the epidemiological investigation, and to develop a remediation plan for the building. DES and its federal and state partners have developed a detailed remediation plan to clean the building and allow lifting of the quarantine. DPHS and DES officials are working closely with the ministries to assist them in implementing the plan.

While the occurrence of anthrax contamination is rare in New Hampshire, the DES emergency investigation section addressed the situation with the same high level of expertise with which it meets the more common oil spill or chemical fire. ■



## Couture honored by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Conservation

At a recent reception to celebrate the permanent protection of 549 acres of the Clay Pond headwaters in Hooksett, DES's river coordinator Steve Couture was presented with the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Conservation Citizen of the Year for his efforts to ensure the success of this project. Steve, who is currently serving in Iraq with the National Guard, was present for the ceremony via a live video link, and was totally surprised by the award. Steve's wife, Deb, and their three children, Hope, Taylor and Noah, were all there to join in the festivities and to accept the award. It was a happy occasion, and Holly Green and Commissioner Tom Burack were honored to be there on behalf of DES. Two of DES's programs, the Source Water Protection Program and the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund, provided grant funding for the project. Congratulations, Steve! ■

## Greenhouse Fire

*continued from page 1*

Pleasant View Gardens contracted Clean Harbors to remove the debris from this area of the fire. Clean Harbors used an excavator to remove the portions of the metal building that were covering the pile of chemicals; then moved the contaminated ash and debris into a sealed roll off container. The next morning, DES and Clean Harbors met at the site to reassess the conditions. Clean Harbors removed and disposed of the contaminated debris around edges of the area. DES collected soil samples to ensure no

contaminants penetrated the soil at the perimeter of fire.

Five large greenhouses and the accompanying storage area that contained a pesticide, herbicide and fungicide were destroyed in the two-alarm fire. DES SRCIS responded and assisted in coordinating and providing technical assistance to a situation that involved a fire that could have significant environmental and health impacts. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, SRCIS personnel are available and equipped to respond to spills of petroleum and all manner of hazardous, chemical wastes. ■

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



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## UNH Stormwater Center Partners install first porous asphalt road in state

A new active adult community in Pelham is home to the state's first porous asphalt road, thanks to the efforts of the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center in partnership with developers, contractors and civil officials. Porous asphalt, which lets stormwater drain through the road rather than pooling on the surface, covers all 900 feet of Winterberry Lane, as well as driveways and walkways in the new Boulder Hills condominium community.

Nonpoint source pollution carried by stormwater is one of the greatest threats to water quality nationwide. As stormwater seeps through the porous asphalt, it is filtered of pollutants like sediment, heavy metals and petroleum products. By eliminating runoff, porous asphalt replaces other stormwater management systems like retention ponds and catch basins.

Porous surfaces also reduce reliance on chemical deicing and anti-icing practices, resulting in significant potential economic savings for winter maintenance and environmental benefits.

"This project is a significant advance in the practice of stormwater management, and the developers and town deserve credit for breaking the mold," says Robert Roseen, director of the UNH Stormwater Center and a research assistant professor of civil engineering at UNH. "It is development strategies such as these that are part of the solution to managing future development in a manner that protects aquatic habitat as required by state stormwater rules."

Roseen worked with Stickville LLC, builders and developers of the 24-unit community, along with Pelham town planner Jeff Gowan, pavement supplier Pike Industries, and SFC Engineering Partnership to install the porous asphalt road. The UNH Stormwater Center drew on its experience testing



Winterberry Lane in the new Boulder Hills condominium community in Pelham, is the state's first porous asphalt road. Photo courtesy of the UNH Stormwater Center.

porous surfaces at its field facilities on the UNH campus, where a parking lot with porous asphalt supplies data on the effectiveness of this technology in this climate. Porous asphalt has been installed at more than 20 parking lots around the state.

Roseen calls the Boulder Hills site, which sits atop a large sand deposit, ideal for the infiltration of stormwater runoff. The asphalt mix design employs a combination of asphalt admixtures to boost strength and durability. Although the cost of producing and installing the porous asphalt road was 25 percent higher than that of a traditional asphalt roadway, the developers saw cost savings by avoiding substantial stormwater management infrastructure like curbs, catch basins, and retention ponds. The development has other low-impact development (LID) features, such as infiltration of rooftop runoff, multi-unit buildings, Energy Star-certified homes, and walking trails. ■

## Collaborative continues work on climate action plan

Following the release of the NH Climate Action Plan in March 2009 by Gov. John Lynch, the NH Energy and Climate Collaborative convened to facilitate the implementation of the plan. This 18 member body includes leaders from the public, private and non-profit communities who are working together to identify the barriers and opportunities within the state to best implement the plan.

DES Commissioner Tom Burack, who chaired the task force that developed the original plan, is also chairing the new collaborative. The group has already met twice to develop a preliminary work plan and outreach program for the next 18 months, and has begun to identify partners who will be invited to work with the group.

Meetings are held bi-monthly and are open to the public. For more information on the collaborative, contact Stacey Doll, NH Energy and Climate Collaborative coordinator, (603) 271-6947 or [stacey.doll@des.nh.gov](mailto:stacey.doll@des.nh.gov), or see [www.nhcollaborative.org](http://www.nhcollaborative.org). ■

## Grant to go toward preparing for public health impacts

The state's Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) together with the DES Environmental Health Program has received a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials to work on a "climate change adaptation plan," which will focus on public health impacts and adaptation strategies. This grant opportunity will provide the funding necessary to give DPHS, DES and our partners the resources required to take the next steps in developing and implementing a climate change adaptation plan for the protection of public health. For more information, contact Sherry Godlewski, at (603) 271-6801 or [sherry.godlewski@des.nh.gov](mailto:sherry.godlewski@des.nh.gov). ■

## New Hampshire part of regional initiative to look at low-carbon fuels

In late December 2009, governors from 11 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, including New Hampshire Gov. Lynch, signed a memorandum of understanding that commits the states to working together to evaluate the impacts and potential implementation of a regional low carbon fuel standard program.

A low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) program is a market-based, fuel-neutral program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fuels. If adopted by states, it would apply to the transportation sector, and potentially to fuels used for heating buildings. A regional LCFS, combined with efforts to reduce total miles driven and improve fuel economy, could reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, which represent approximately 30 percent of emissions in the region. In addition, a LCFS could reduce regional vulnerability to petroleum price volatility and facilitate the long-term transition from petroleum-based fuels in the transportation sector. It also has the potential to spur economic growth related to development of advanced technologies and green energy jobs.

The signing of the MOU followed a year-long effort by state environmental and energy agencies to evaluate the potential for implementing a LCFS on a regional basis. The MOU continues this effort by establishing a process to develop a regional framework by 2011, and examine the economic impacts of a LCFS program. The states have committed to providing many opportunities for business, energy and environmental stakeholder involvement in the process.

Joining Gov. Lynch in signing the MOU were the governors from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Development of an LCFS program on a regional basis is prudent and efficient given the interconnected nature of the fuel distribution system in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region. The 11 participating states include all 10 member states of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), plus Pennsylvania. States have already demonstrated the success of regional emissions reduction programs with RGGI, which covers greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

DES staff are participating in ongoing LCFS workgroup meetings, as

well as regional stakeholder meetings. As the program components become better defined over the upcoming months, additional New Hampshire-specific stakeholder opportunities will be established. For information on this process and the LCFS program, contact Michael Fitzgerald of the Air Resources Division at (603) 271-6390 or [michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov). LCFS information and background materials can be found at the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) website: [www.nescaum.org/topics/low-carbon-fuels](http://www.nescaum.org/topics/low-carbon-fuels). NESCAUM, a nonprofit association of air quality agencies in the Northeast, is providing technical and analytical support to the 11 states for this initiative. ■

## EPA proposes stricter smog standards

On January 6, 2010, the federal Environmental Protection Agency proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, the main component of smog. The proposed revisions are based on scientific evidence about ozone and its effects on people and the environment. Ground-level ozone is linked to a number of serious health problems, ranging from aggravation of asthma to increased risk of premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Exposure to ozone is also linked to damage to plants and trees, including reduced tree growth, damage to leaves, and increased susceptibility to disease.

EPA is proposing to strengthen the “primary” ozone standard, designed to protect public health, to a level within the range of 0.060-0.070 parts per million (ppm) averaged over an eight-hour period. This would replace the existing eight-hour standard of 0.075 ppm set in 2008. EPA is reconsidering the existing standard because it is not protective enough according to key scientific and technical information and recommendations from the federal Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.

EPA is also proposing to establish a distinct cumulative, seasonal “secondary” standard designed to protect sensitive vegetation and ecosystems, including forests, parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas. Scientific evidence shows that repeated exposure to ozone during the growing season damages sensitive vegetation, such as black cherry and quaking aspen.

While air quality continues to improve in New Hampshire, under the proposed standard New Hampshire could have more areas designated as not meeting the ozone standard, which might increase requirements on sources of air pollution in these areas. This could affect the southern portion of the state or all areas of the state, depending on the final standard selected.

**Smog Standards**, *continued on page 6*

## New sampling wells installed at Mottolo site

Three new on-site, deep bedrock monitoring wells and one overburden well were installed this winter on the Mottolo Superfund site in Raymond, after elevated concentrations of arsenic and detectable concentrations of VOCs were discovered last summer in nearby residential wells. Sixty-five residential wells have been tested to date. All this occurred 13 years after the site was deemed "cleaned up."

The Mottolo Superfund site is an abandoned pig farm located on a 50-acre undeveloped wooded lot in Raymond. From 1975 to 1979, the owner of the property disposed of chemical manufacturing wastes from two companies in a quarter-acre fill area adjacent to the piggery buildings. During this four-year period, over 1,600 drums and pails of wastes, including volatile organic compounds, such as trichloroethylene, toluene, xylene and methyl ethyl ketone, were disposed of at the site.



DES studies showed that the groundwater beneath the site was contaminated and that contaminants were seeping into a brook that empties into the Exeter River. The Exeter River is a drinking water supply for the downstream communities of Exeter, Hampton and Stratham. It was estimated that 1,600 people within three miles of the site depended on groundwater as a source of drinking water. After extensive cleanup efforts, the US Environmental Protection Agency determined in 1996 that soil cleanup levels had been attained.

While arsenic is a naturally occurring metal that exceeds drinking water standards in approximately 20 percent of New Hampshire bedrock wells, the elevated readings of the July samplings at wells surrounding the Mottolo site could only be attributed to the past contamination at the site.

Since the 2009 discovery, DES has been meeting with EPA and town officials to review findings and options, and to determine courses of action. The state's environmental consultant/contractor, GZA, recently summarized site data and prepared detailed data presentations. Its report is based on technical input from DES, EPA and the United States and New Hampshire geological surveys, and will provide remedial response options and alternatives for addressing residual on-site contamination. ■

## Salvage yard licenses renewal date has been moved back

The date for renewing town-issued motor vehicle salvage yards has been changed from April 1 to July 1 per RSA 236:121. This applies to both existing and new licenses. Also, as a reminder, based on a 2007 change in the statute, all motor vehicle salvage yard license applications must include certification by the license applicant that the facility is in compliance with best management practices established by DES. The BMPs and a sample compliance certification statement are posted at [www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/tsei/greenyards/index.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/tsei/greenyards/index.htm).

If you have any questions about the BMP compliance certification, please contact Tara Mae Albert at [tara.albert@des.nh.gov](mailto:tara.albert@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2938. Questions about administering the local license application process, including the change in renewal date, should be referred to town counsel or the N.H. Municipal Association. ■

## Posters available

Posters and brochures on the proper disposal of end-of-life vehicles are available to municipal officials and applicable businesses through DES. The message points out the environmental ramifications of improperly disposed of junked cars and the benefits of using licensed motor vehicle salvage yards. The brochure can be found at [http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wmd/documents/where\\_junk\\_cars\\_go.pdf](http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wmd/documents/where_junk_cars_go.pdf). The posters have the same message as the brochure. Please contact Tara Mae Albert at [tara.albert@des.nh.gov](mailto:tara.albert@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2938 if you would like copies of the posters or brochures. ■



## Got questions? "Energy Answers" can help!

The Education Center at UNH Cooperative Extension in Manchester provides practical solutions to everyday energy questions. A toll-free info-line is staffed with volunteers trained to answer energy-related questions or refer callers to experts and other outside resources. *Energy Answers* aims to connect callers with the best New Hampshire-specific information from experienced energy professionals throughout the state.

1-877-398-4769

[answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
and Wednesday evenings from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
<http://extension.unh.edu/Energy/Energy.html>

## Developer penalized for altering terrain and violating shoreland

The Merrimack County Superior Court recently approved a settlement between the state of New Hampshire and Arleigh Greene and West River Road LLC to resolve violations of the state's shoreland protection and water pollution laws on a parcel of land in Hooksett with frontage on the Merrimack River. The settlement includes a total civil penalty of \$40,000.

In its lawsuit, the State alleged that Greene and West River Road LLC violated the state's shoreland protection and water pollution laws by failing to obtain an alteration of terrain permit prior to disturbing more than 50,000 square feet of land within the protected shoreland, and failing to maintain the natural woodland buffer on the parcel. The court-approved agreement requires Greene and West River Road LLC to pay a total of \$20,000 as a cash penalty and complete vegetation restoration on the property. The remaining civil penalty will be suspended as long as Greene and West River Road LLC remain in compliance with the shoreland protection and water pollution laws and regulations for two years.

"We are pleased with the settlement agreement as it demonstrates the state's continuing commitment to protecting New Hampshire's rivers and shorelands," Attorney General Michael Delaney stated.

Commissioner Burack said, "This settlement reflects the importance of the state's environmental laws and acknowledges the vital role that the state's regulations play in protecting water quality in our lakes and rivers."

For more information concerning this case, please contact Evan J. Mulholland, Assistant Attorney General, at (603) 271-3679. ■

## A cluster of DES/Antioch U. alumni



**DES Antioch alums:** Vince Perelli, Stephanie D'Agostino, Barbara Fales, Debra Sonderegger, Faith Linsky (Antioch's director of Development and Alumni Relations), Sara Johnson, Sherry Godlewski, Pam Sopczyk and Paul Susca.

After contacting them through the alumni newsletter, three Antioch University New England officials recently met with a "cluster" of alumni from DES to see if there were ways Antioch alumni clusters could work more closely with the college. The group discussed the possibility of having Antioch students intern here at DES, as well as other potential partnerships that might be formed with Antioch.

## Upcoming events!

### MARCH 5, 23 & APRIL 23

**Land Resources Workshop** - NHDES, 29 Hazen Dr., Concord. For more info: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/index.htm>

### MARCH 27

#### Global Earth Hour -

Turn your lights off for one hour, 8:30-9:30 pm, to support a call for action on climate change worldwide.



### MARCH 30

**Brownfields Workshop for Regional Planning Commissions, Non-profits and Municipalities** - NHDES, 29 Hazen Dr., Concord. For more info: keith.dubois@des.nh.gov.

### APRIL 17

#### Discover WILD New Hampshire

**Day!** - NH Fish & Game, Hazen Dr., Concord. For more info: <http://wildlife.state.nh.us/>

### APRIL 22

EARTH DAY!

## Smog Standards

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EPA estimates that the proposal would yield health benefits for thousands of Americans and save between \$13 billion and \$100 billion in health care costs, depending on the level of the final standard. Estimated costs of implementing the proposal range from \$19 billion to \$90 billion. EPA will issue final standards by August 31, 2010, following public hearings and a public comment period.

For more information on the proposed standard, visit EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/](http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/). For potential implications for New Hampshire, contact Jeff Underhill of the Air Resources Division at [jeffrey.underhill@des.nh.gov](mailto:jeffrey.underhill@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-1102. ■

## Lead in bags leads to fine for Barnes & Noble

### *First fine for toxics in packaging levied in N.H.*

DES recently announced the execution of an administrative fine by consent with Barnes & Noble Inc. of New York City in the amount of \$3,000. The agreement resolves alleged violations of the state's Toxics in Packaging laws.

Under the terms of the agreement, Barnes & Noble, which operates five retail stores in New Hampshire, agreed to not contest the alleged violations and will pay administrative fines totaling \$3,000 to the state. The fines resolve allegations that the company distributed plastic store bags that contained high levels of lead and failed to submit certificates of compliance upon request.

In June and in August 2008, the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse, which coordinates implementation of the law on behalf of ten state members, notified Barnes & Noble of the potential violation and requested a certificate of compliance and supporting documentation to prove compliance. State toxics in packaging laws require the submittal of certificates of compliance within 60 days of receiving a request. DES Commissioner Tom Burack said, "New Hampshire passed the toxics in packaging law in 1990, so this is not a new law. We conduct outreach with nine other states through the Clearinghouse, which provided Barnes & Noble the opportunity to address the problem without enforcement."

Once contacted by the states of Iowa and Washington in the spring of 2009, Barnes & Noble began removing non-compliant bags from circulation. Payment of the administrative fine followed an administrative order issued to Barnes & Noble by DES in September 2009. The Barnes & Noble response to the administrative order included a statement that the company had removed the non-compliant bags from all of its New Hampshire stores prior to the date of the administrative order.

For more information on this case or on New Hampshire's toxics in packaging law, contact Sharon Yergeau, DES Planning, Prevention & Assistance Unit, at (603) 271-2918. ■

## DES joins in three-day FEMA training

Nearly 100 state personnel representing state agencies and private sector agencies that respond to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) took part in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's State Integrated Emergency Management Course in January at the N.H. Fire Academy in Concord.

The course, which consisted of two days of classroom instruction and a one-day functional exercise in the EOC, was taught by a six-person team from the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md. The purpose of the course was to familiarize EOC staff with operations of the National Response Framework, which guides the federal response to major disasters. It also demonstrated how to set up an integrated approach to all-hazards response and recovery. Many agencies, including DES, sent several participants to the course to ensure that their EOC functions would be adequately staffed during a long-term event.

*Reprinted from the Emergency Management News, the monthly e-newsletter of N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management.* ■



### Before spreading petro-chemicals on your lawn, try these alternatives –

As people start to think about lawn care and maintenance, here are some great sources of information from the UNH Cooperative Extension and DES for healthier lawns and gardens. (Just click on the titles; they're hyper-linked.)

Cooperative Extension Publications and Information (UNH website)

Proper Lawn Care Can Protect Waters (DES fact sheet WD-SP-2)

IPM: An Alternative to Pesticides (DES fact sheet WD-SP-3)

Fundamentals of Xeriscaping and Water-Wise Landscaping (DES fact sheet WD-DWGB-26-4)

Integrated Pest Management: Controlling Pests Safely (DES fact sheet CO-15)

Composting Fall Leaves for a Healthier Lawn and Garden (*GreenWorks*, October, 2007)

A Healthy Garden and Lawn Makes for a Healthy Watershed (*GreenWorks*, July, 2007)



## Commissioner's Column

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good place to learn more about our state parks can be found online at [www.nhstateparks.org](http://www.nhstateparks.org).

For others, being green could be as simple as the fact that green is the color of money and connecting to the environment is a cost-saving matter. Businesses, municipalities and individuals alike can all save money by making cost-effective, green choices. And without meaning to be cynical, it is probably this economic connection that has helped the green movement of this generation succeed where past efforts have failed.

To keep a little more green in my wallet, I have taken steps in my own home to reduce my expenses for electricity, heating and cooling. A key point that I have come to learn is that neglect of regular maintenance on our heating systems can really add to our expenses. Did you know that as much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling? Yearly tune ups, changing air filters and using programmable thermostats deliver guaranteed cost savings to you

and benefit our environment via pollution prevention – less pollution created by you and your heating system.

In addition to a healthy heating system, there has never been a better time to invest in the energy efficiency of your home. Through the end of this year, for every \$10 you spend on qualified energy efficient windows, doors and insulation, the federal government will give you \$3 back in the form of a tax credit. This program can certainly benefit many of the older homes that we have here in New Hampshire, so if you haven't taken advantage of this program yet, I strongly encourage you to do so.

While I would suggest that even the "greenest" of us can do more for our environment, we should not spend our days wondering if green is the right thing to be, but instead realize that it is great to be green, and that each green act, whether it is a conscious one or not, can make a positive difference in our lives and for our environment. Despite what Kermit may say, it's actually very easy to leave a better, greener earth for those who come after us. ■

Tom Burack, *Commissioner*

## Bring your family to

## Discover WILD NH Day - April 17



*Seeing big trout and salmon in a real stocking truck is always a highlight of Discover WILD NH Day. NHFG photos.*

Celebrate the out-of-doors at New Hampshire's "Discover WILD NH Day," co-sponsored by the departments of Environmental Services and Fish & Game, on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at NH Fish & Game headquarters, Hazen Drive, Concord. Admission is free and there's plenty of free parking! See [www.wild-nh.com/index.htm](http://www.wild-nh.com/index.htm) for more. ■



## DES Seacoast office relocates

The DES Portsmouth regional offices have moved from 50 International Drive to 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth. For directions and a map to the new location, please see <http://des.nh.gov/contactus/regional.htm>.



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