



**For immediate release**  
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## **DCR HONORS ARTISTS WHO PAINTED “IRON RANGERS” IN STATE PARKS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH**

BOSTON- The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held a celebration at Breakheart Reservation in Saugus this month to honor the seven artists who donated their time and talent to paint wildlife and landscape scenes on metal contribution containers, known as Iron Rangers, in seven state parks.

DCR has installed 170 Iron Rangers at 111 state properties across the Commonwealth. The 42-inch-high, steel containers are designed to accept financial contributions from park users that are then used to fund educational programs and conservation projects in the state parks system through the Conservation Trust.

The Iron Rangers generate a total of about \$18,000 annually. When painted, they attract further attention and patrons contribute more generously. In some cases, donations have more than doubled over the previous year after an Iron Ranger has been painted.

“This program is an important part of DCR’s larger effort to improve park service and enhance the visitors’ experience while promoting partnerships in the parks,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “By facilitating contributions to the Conservation Trust, the Iron Ranger program also highlights DCR’s message of ‘It’s Your Nature.’ We thank all the artists very much for the time and effort and talent that they put into this project.”

The Iron Ranger Painting Program provides an opportunity for artists to display their work in a DCR park while helping enhance the look of the Iron Rangers, and thus, of the park itself. Although artists are not paid for their work, they are invited to sign the back of the Iron Ranger and leave business cards and brochures with park personnel to distribute upon request. To date, 61 Rangers have been painted during the six years of the Iron Ranger Painting Program.

The Iron Ranger Painting program, now in its sixth year, advances DCR’s priorities of investing in the parks and properties and strengthening partnerships. The artists have given the Iron Rangers a fresh new look, which has generated increased interest in and support for the state’s parks, beaches, and forests.

The artists, and the DCR parks where they painted an Iron Ranger, are:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
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Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Erik Bunker of Pembroke: Houghtons Pond, Blue Hills Reservation, Milton;  
Margaret Drummey of Stoneham: Camp Nihan, Breakheart Reservation, Saugus;  
Jim House of Merrimac: Maudslay State Park, Newburyport;  
Sarah Leon of Watertown: Willard Brook State Forest, Ashby;  
Linda Malis of Braintree: Freetown State Forest, Assonet;  
Donna Pierce of Wakefield, Harold Parker State Forest, North Andover;  
Bryant Stewart of Erving: Wendell State Forest, Wendell.

The family of the late Leslie Roitman of Milton will also be acknowledged for Ms. Roitman's design, which was used in the painting of the Iron Ranger at Houghtons Pond in the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton.

The \$200 to fund the artists' reception came from interest payments in DCR's Conservation and Urban Parks trusts.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*