

Fall 1991

# Maine Conservation Corps Newsletter, Fall 1991

Maine Conservation Corps

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalmaine.com/mcc\\_docs](http://digitalmaine.com/mcc_docs)

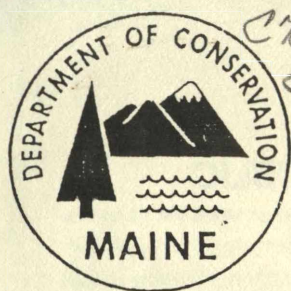
---

## Recommended Citation

Maine Conservation Corps, "Maine Conservation Corps Newsletter, Fall 1991" (1991). *Maine Conservation Corps Publications*. Book 1.  
[http://digitalmaine.com/mcc\\_docs/1](http://digitalmaine.com/mcc_docs/1)

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Maine Conservations Corps at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Conservation Corps Publications by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact [statedocs@maine.gov](mailto:statedocs@maine.gov).





# Maine Conservation Corps

*Maine People Working Outdoors*

FALL 1991

## MCC SEEKS WORK SITES FOR 1992 PROJECTS

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) is looking for 25 good projects for 1992! We want projects which will:

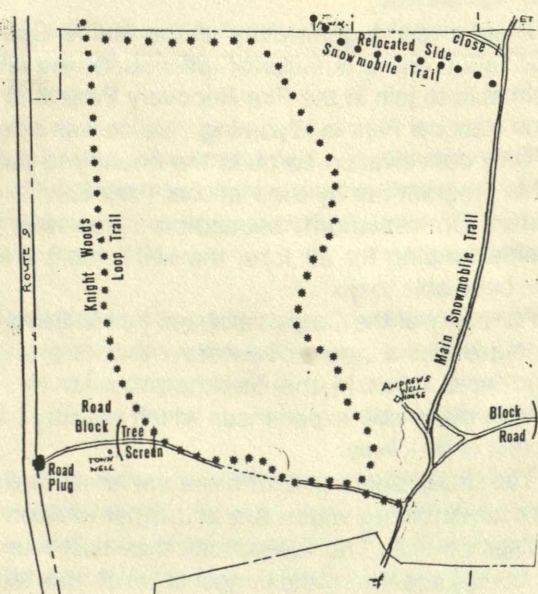
- \* Complete significant conservation and outdoor recreation work for public and private nonprofit agencies;
- \* Provide long term benefit to the public of Maine;
- \* Provide a diversity of challenging tasks for MCC teams;
- \* Require hard work;
- \* Be with organizations that support safe work habits and would like to see Maine's young people learn more about their natural environment.

To receive project applications or additional information about the MCC, call Ken Spalding, MCC Director at 289-4931. Proposals are due by December 13, 1991, so act now!



*MCC Crew carrying logs*

## A NEW SKI TRAIL FOR BRADBURY MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



*Location of new ski trail*

One of the projects completed last summer by an MCC team was a new hiking/cross country ski trail at Bradbury Mountain State Park in Pownal. The mile-long loop trail is on land acquired in 1990 through the Land For Maine's Future Board. This 100-acre parcel is across Route 9 from the present day-use portion of the Park and adjacent to the campsite area.

The MCC team of four young people and their leader, Chris Robinson, also relocated a short portion of a snowmobile trail to link the Park to a snowmobile trail on the new property.

The work accomplished by the MCC team means that this new portion of the Park will now be able to be enjoyed by the public. Although further interpretative work is planned for the trail, the initial work has been accomplished. "This project would not have been possible last summer if the MCC crew had not been available," said Park Manager Dan Bell. The crew did their job with "energy and enthusiasm" and the Park is pleased with the results.



## 1991 TEAMS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE PROJECTS

Twenty-five teams - more than 145 people - worked on Maine's recreational and conservation lands in 1991, as part of this year's Maine Conservation Corps. Despite the three week state shutdown, the program accomplished 28,000 hours of work at sites from the Allagash Wilderness Waterway to the Wells Reserve and from the White Mountain National Forest to Camden Hills State Park.

MCC began the year with two spring projects - one on Swan Island in Richmond and a second at the Maine Geographic Information System in Augusta. Five young men and women repaired the buildings at the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife area on the Kennebec River while two Corpsmembers helped get natural resource information on to versatile computer maps.

The bulk of the MCC teams worked during the summer months on projects sponsored by a variety of state, federal, local and private nonprofit organizations (see p.3). The work accomplished for these natural resource agencies was significant and in most cases would have gone undone if the teams had not been available.

Corpsmembers gained not only new job skills, but came away from the summer with new confidence in what they were able to undertake and complete. The work was hard and labor intensive. Many of the projects involved trail work and bridge construction including building rock steps into steep sections of trail and water bars to control erosion. The Corpsmembers learned new skills and importantly, how to work together as a team.

## 10 CORPSMEMBERS ATTEND OUTWARD BOUND COURSE

Once again the MCC was able to offer an extra opportunity to qualified Corpsmembers at the end of their summer work projects. Chosen on the recommendation of their team leaders for outstanding work ethic and dedication to their project, ten Corpsmembers were selected to participate in a special three day course at the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in Rockland.

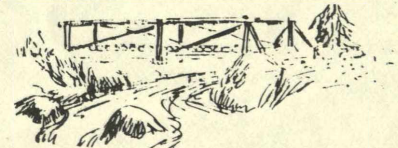
This experience augmented and reinforced the skills already learned during the summer, and is the type of additional opportunity MCC strives to make available to Corpsmembers. Scholarships from Hurricane Island also helped make this program possible.

## SANCTUARY OPEN TO PUBLIC WITH AID FROM MCC

In 1987 the children of Annie Sturgis donated 40 acres of their family farm in Vassalboro to the New England Wildflower Society. This year the Wildflower Society was able to fulfill its plan of opening the Sanctuary along the Kennebec River to public use for recreation and education. They did this by turning to the MCC for help.

The MCC selected the Society's project because it provided a diverse and high quality work experience for the Corpsmembers and a significant long-term benefit to the public. The MCC team of four local young men and women and their team leader Jeff Andress, cleared two miles of trails along former bridle paths and carriage trails and built four bridges over streams and ravines. The trails, which will take walkers to the largest stand of wild ginger in the state, will be used for educational tours and by cross country skiers, wildflower enthusiasts and photographers.

Marilyn Dwelley, steward of the Sanctuary, said the work needed to open the area would "not have been done for many years without the MCC." The result of the project with the MCC is that the site is now officially open to the public. Visit the Sanctuary off Rt. 201 in Vassalboro and judge for yourself how well the MCC team did!



## THANKS TO MANY FOR YELLOWSTONE OPPORTUNITY

Thanks to the generosity of the Maine Community Foundation and a number of individuals, the MCC was again able to join in the Fire Recovery Project at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Maine was selected as the only conservation corps in the country to participate in this program run by the National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association. However, without outside funding for air fare, the MCC team would not have been able to go.

For many of the Corpsmembers, just to travel outside the state was a new adventure. Working and living together 5 miles in the backcountry for five weeks brought many new experiences which will stay with them the rest of their lives.

The group spent part of the summer at Baxter State Park constructing waterbars and other erosion control devices on trails. At Yellowstone they built four bridges for horses and hikers, the largest of which was 86' long!



# 1991 AT THE MCC

1991  
Summer Projects

**Allagash Wilderness Waterway** (Bureau of Parks and Recreation): cleared 4+ miles of trail, re-stored shoreline at High Bank campsite, built waterbars, 5 picnic tables, 3 fire rings, helped with 25th anniversary.

**Little Squaw Mountain, Greenville** (Bureau of Public Lands): built 30-40 bog bridges, hauled fill to 5 campsites to make safe, stained privies at Lily Bay State Park, helped at historic home.

**Baxter State Park**: built 17 waterbars, 2 causeways and 40+ rock steps. Also went to Yellowstone: removed 3 unsafe bridges, constructed 4 new ones (22'-86' in length).

**Bigelow Preserve** (Bureau of Public Lands): upgraded 3 campsites, constructed 2 new sites and 1 group site, and 1/2 mile new trail, cut 700' of sled trail and 1/4 mi. right of way.

**Appalachian Trail, Carrabassett Valley** (Maine Appalachian Trail Club): stabilized portion of AT and a side trail, built water bars and rock steps and cribbing for erosion control.

**Goose Eye Mountain, Mahoosuc Mts.** (Bureau of Public Lands): sized and stabilized 1 mile of treadway on this 3,000' peak, cut and removed brush from 3/4 mile of trail.

**White Mountain National Forest** (U.S. Forest Service): clipped 8 miles of trail and 4 wildlife openings, moved 16 picnic tables, clipped brush on 1 mile snowmobile trail, built 40' stairs.

**Husson College, Bangor**: cleared and developed 1+ miles of trail, built 2 log benches and a 17x4.5' bridge.

**Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, Lubec**: cleared 8.5 miles of trail, cleaned beaches of litter, built 58 bog bridges, sterilized 2700 flower pots, took care of gardens.

**Annie Sturgis Wildflower Sanctuary, Vassalboro** (New England Wildflower Society): cleared and developed 2 miles of trail, chipped brush, built 4 bridges.

**Frye Mountain, Montville** (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife): remarked boundary (5 mi.), brushed and removed rocks on 3+ miles of road, released 34 apple trees, built 14 duck, 8 bluebird boxes.

**Pine Tree State Arboretum**: built 2 foot bridges, set of log steps, rebuilt and painted 5 picnic tables, maintained trails and planted trees.

**Governor Hill Hatchery** (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife): pruned and brushed out a pine stand along entrance road, built aqueducts to bring spring water to hatchery.

**Togus Veterans Administration Hospital**: built 1 mile of trail and reconstructed 4 miles of old trail, built 2 bridges (30' and 24'), rebuilt a culvert and made a pine log bench.

**Camden Hills State Park** (Bureau of Parks and Recreation): trail maintenance and erosion control on 3.5 miles, reconstructed 3 bridges, re-marked and trimmed 3.5 miles of trail.

**Swan Island** (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife): built 3 fireboxes and eagle platform, made trail signs, remarked self-guiding tour, stained out-houses, built fencing and bluebird boxes.

**Central Maine Technical College, Auburn**: constructed a 2,500 foot loop walkway with a crush stone base from the college to nearby Lake Auburn.

**Bradbury Mountain State Park, Pownal** (Bureau of Parks and Recreation): built a new cross country ski trail, cleaned and brushed out existing snowmobile trails, rebuilt rock wall.

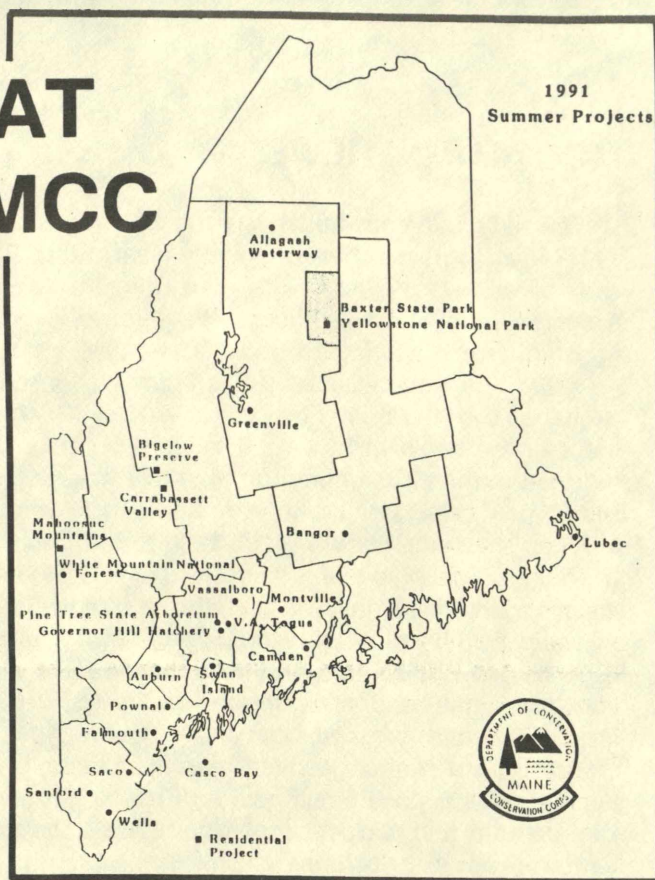
**Maine Audubon Society, Falmouth**: constructed 1 mile of new trail, built 4 bridges, 100' of boardwalk and drainage ditches and waterbars at the Fore River Sanctuary, Pld.

**Casco Bay Islands** (Community Employment Project): maintained trails, removed debris from beaches, built stone stairs and retaining wall at BPL's Mackworth Is. (Baxter School for the Deaf), restoration at Fort Gorges.

**Saco Parks** (Saco Parks and Recreation Department): installed rock steps, rerouted trail, built and planted rock garden, erosion control. Also cut and removed brush and thinned trees.

**Sanford Parks** (Sanford Bureau of Recreation and Public Property and Sanford Kiwanis Club): cleared 3/4 mi trail, and 1 acre underbrush, stained 2 bridges, built stairs with railing.

**Wells Reserve** (Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve): built dune boardwalk with railing, 25 yards of rail fence, cleared 3 miles of trail, built walkways, 4 benches and trail signs.





## MCC ALUMNI NEWS

*Tina Wormell* from Lubec started with the MCC in 1984 as a Corpsmember at Quoddy Head State Park, and moved to a project at Roosevelt-Campobello International Park the following year. She returned to be the Assistant Team Leader at Roosevelt-Campobello in 1988. In 1990, Tina was selected for a conservation corps exchange with the Soviet Union in 1990, for which she had to raise her own travel funds. Last summer Tina returned to the MCC once more, but this time as team leader, now helping others to learn and benefit from the MCC as she had. Tina will graduate from the University of Maine at Machias this winter and plans a career in teaching, while heading MCC teams in the summer.

*Jonathan Sleeper* of Lewiston joined the MCC in 1988 as a member of the Casco Bay team. In 1990 he came back to join the residential program on the Appalachian Trail. That team worked both in the western Maine mountains and represented Maine in the National Park Service's Yellowstone Fire Recovery Project. Jonathan worked hard and learned a lot, and in 1991 the MCC recommended him for the backcountry program of the California Conservation Corps. He was one of only five participants outside California chosen for this strenuous five month program.

Jonathan finished his backcountry trail work in September and has decided to pursue a career in natural resources. He has opted to stay on with the California Conservation Corps and will be working on salmon habitat restoration in northern California.

**ALUMNI!** Write to us and let us know what you are doing now. Send to MCC, State House Station 22, Augusta, Maine 04333.

Printed on recycled paper.

Produced by SERVE/Maine volunteer Minie Smith

## TEAM LEADERS:

### KEY TO MCC SUCCESS

Team leaders make the MCC work. The MCC succeeds when a challenging project is completed and the Corpsmembers grow. To be a success, the work must be of high quality and the Corpsmembers must learn good work habits, learn to work as a team and increase their environmental awareness. Making this happen is the team leader's responsibility.

MCC team leaders are multi-talented people, all with a diversity of skills. Each is the key to the success of their project and all are the key to the success of MCC. MCC Director Ken Spalding said, "Considering the difficulty of the job and the dedication and talents required to succeed, I am continually impressed with the outstanding performance and excellent results of the MCC leaders."

Leading an MCC team is a difficult, challenging job with very modest financial rewards. So;

#### WHY DO THEY DO IT AND WHY DO THEY RETURN?

*"Good times, good kids and pride in the project work." ... Michael Warren, Chelsea*

*"The work we do is important, and raising environmental awareness is imperative." ... Tina Wormell, Lubec*

*"Wonderful summer. Proud to be part of such important work." ... Matt Kearns, Waterville*

*"A truly enjoyable summer. I never awoke in the morning saying 'I can't go in today.'" ... Peg Levasseur, Berwick*

~~~~~  
**REMINDER: DON'T FORGET 1992 PROPOSALS ARE  
DUE DEC. 13, 1991! (see p.1)**  
~~~~~

---

### MAINE CONSERVATION CORPS

Dept. of Conservation  
State House Station 22  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
(207) 289-4931

---

The Maine Conservation Corps is people- teams of energetic Maine people undertaking conservation projects across the state while learning basic job skills. Designed for Maine citizens with the greatest need, the MCC has employed over 1,000 individuals since it began in 1984. As many as 36 projects a year take place on lands used by the public for recreation and conservation.

---