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# Bulletin: Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation, August 1989

Maine Department of Conservation

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# BULLETIN

Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation

August 1989

## Commissioner's Column

The Department is very pleased with the results of the Legislative session related to our Department budget and programs. We received over one million dollars in new programs and positions for each year in the biennium. Six of seven Department bills passed. Of the Governor's bills, 57 of 69 were enacted.

These results are impressive and provide great new opportunities for DOC and our employees. The Forest Practices Act means significant new vistas for the MFS. Nineteen new positions were added. Forestry will put together a summary of the legislation for your information. LURC received the additional resources recommended in the Peat, Marwick Study, amounting to over \$300,000 per year. Parks received a large percent of its request for repair money and a large amount for vehicles. Geology received funds for the Marine Geology Program and water supply analysis, and Public Lands received new authorization for increased management of submerged lands. One caution, despite the budget increase, nearly all of it goes to major new responsibilities.

Capital and All Other remain tight.

Once again several people from each Bureau worked hard to assist Sue Bell and Cathy Ward on legislative matters. The success and professionalism of your efforts are reflected in the results.

David Boulter joined the Department July 17 as Executive Director of LURC. We are fortunate to have someone of Dave's experience and ability. For the first time since last October, we now have a full complement of Bureau Directors. I have asked each Director for recommendations on strategic planning to help the Department plan for future needs and demands.

We are making an effort to visit many DOC facilities and programs this summer and have enjoyed talking with you about how things are going. With the hot, dry and busy season on us, we appreciate the hard work you are doing.

Congratulations to Doris Scott and Dick Coffin, BPR, and Jack Dirkman, Ed Jones and Roscoe Ryan, MFS, who were among the career public service honorees recognized for 25 years of state service in the special June issue of *AT YOUR SERVICE*, newsletter of the Maine Department of Administration.

Special thanks to the Maine Forest Service people who worked to notify and organize the crews that have recently gone west to fight fire. They have often worked throughout the night to distribute gear, arrange transport and process crew lists. Without their efforts, the job could not have been done.

If you have topics or a question you would like addressed in the *Bulletin*, please write to me.

Ed Meadows

## John Logan Honored



John Logan of WAGM-TV in Presque Isle and a longtime friend of Maine's forest resources, has received a 1989 Smokey Bear Award for his volunteer fire prevention efforts in northern Maine.

John's award was one of only ten given nationally by the United States Forest Service.

## Conservation Notebook

**Joe Wiley**, Public Lands Wildlife Biologist, reports that the **Pineland MCC** crew has enough materials for rainy day construction of 20 wood duck nest boxes. Joe also reports that *Wildlife Guidelines for Public Reserved Lands* has been mailed to major landowners/managers with an offer to conduct workshops. ••• **Ralph Knoll**, Public Lands' Western Region Land Manager, says the **Mahoosuc MCC** crew is doing a "super job" on the Goose Eye Trail on the Mahoosuc Mountain Unit. ••• **Leigh Hoar** and **Robin Smith** of the Bureau of Public Lands, hosted representatives of the New Brunswick Federation of Woodland Owners in July to discuss the Bureau of Public Lands timber sale policy and procedures on the Duck Lake Unit. The Federation is interested in having the New Brunswick provincial government adopt similar procedures for the sale of crown lands. ••• **Vern Labbe** and **Del Ramey** of the Bureau of Public Lands spent some time recently with Portland Sunday Telegram reporter **Tux Turkel** and photographer **John Ewing**. The Telegram plans a series on public access to Maine lakes. Del reports that the Bureau has recently purchased a logging camp at Telos (T6 R11), west of Baxter Park, to be used as crew housing or for administrative purposes. ••• **Gordeen Noble**, Ferry Beach State Park Manager, represented the Department in a photograph and videotape to be used during the annual Maine State Employee Combined Charitable Appeal. ••• **Tom Charles**, BPL, **Fred Todd**, LURC, and **Jack Dirkman**, MFS, are assisting **John Cashwell**, MFS Director, to identify Best Forest Management Practices for the control of nonpoint source water pollution in connection with the federal Clean Water Act. ••• **Joe Kelley**, MGS Marine Geologist, was an instructor in a short course entitled "Coastal Land Loss," which was presented last month at the 28th International Geological Congress in Washington, D.C. ••• **Steve Swatling** joins the Bureau of Public Lands as the new Bigelow Forester on August 28, and **Eric Nosel** will soon fill the Forest Technician position in the Bureau's Northern Region. ••• **Steve Oliveri** and **Carol DiBello**, BPL, held a workshop on submerged lands for Portland Harbor Commissioners. ••• **Steve Spencer**, BPL, reports that the **Army National Guard** airlifted 15-20 thousand pounds of logs for bridge construction at the Mahoosuc Mt. Unit July 25-28. ••• **Bob Marvinney** led the bedrock portion of the Geological Society of Maine's field trip July 29-30 and **Bob Johnston** helped with logistics. ••• **MCC Corpsmember Recognition Day** will be held On August 17 in Orono. **Bart the Eagle**, will appear. ••• And from a **Warren Island State Park SERVE/Maine Volunteer**: "It's a real pleasure 'serving Maine' with **Larry Cole** and **Jamie Drinkwater**. They're two fine people who represent the State well."

## MCC Yellowstone Crew Update

The Maine Conservation Corps team in Yellowstone is one of the best trained in trail construction and maintenance working on the Park's Recovery Project this summer. Student Conservation Association organizers have, therefore, assigned some of the more challenging jobs to them. The Maine team has built crib works, drainage ditches and water bars in the heavily burned area near Old Faithful. They will be hiking deeper into the park to build bridges before returning to Maine August 21, finishing up in the Northeast section of the park improving wildlife habitat at Slough Creek.



### **Forest Rangers Head West**

Several Forest Rangers responded to calls from the U.S. Forest Service for help at forest fires in Idaho and Oregon in late July and early August.

Jack Rhinebolt, Aroostook Waters District Ranger, went west as a Division Group Supervisor at the Lowman Fire Complex in Idaho.

Mike Ricci of the East Branch District and Arnold Martin and Darcy Labbe, both of the Allagash District, were assigned as Strike Team Group Leaders on fires in the same fire complex. Gary Cook, Ranger from Waldoboro, traveled west as a Strike Team Group Leader at the Enterprise Fire Complex in Oregon. Steve Day, Arnold Trail District Ranger, went to the Zena Fire in Idaho as a Division Group Supervisor.

On August 4, two crews of 20 firefighters each left Maine for Boise, Idaho and assignment to the Lowman Fire complex fire near Stanley, Idaho on the Boise National Forest. As of August 7, the 45,000 acre fire was being fought by 1674 people using 7 helicopters, 25 engines and 14 dozers. Leading the Maine crews were Assistant Moosehead District Ranger, Russ Beauchemin, Russ Landry, Ranger, Moosehead District, Allagash District Ranger Roger McLellan and Gary Santerre, Ranger in the St. Croix River District.

In addition to these crews, seven MFS trained volunteers were sent to New Hampshire where they joined with firefighters from that state for the trip to Idaho and a fire assignment.

An 18 person Maine Forest Service crew returned on July 21 after nearly two weeks of firefighting in Arizona and Utah. Alan Johnston and Peter Umphrey of the Upper St. John District were Crew Representative and Crew Boss respectively, and Kendall Knowles of the Rangeley district was Crew Boss Trainee.

Gary Davis, Chief Aircraft Mechanic, was also called west to assist in the firefighting effort during July. Gary worked in Colorado and Montana as a Helicopter Maintenance Specialist and Aviation Maintenance Inspector.

Federal officials say this year's fire season is well on its way to becoming as bad as 1988, the worst in 80 years.

### **Park Maintenance Top Priority**

Nearly 50 Bureau of Parks and Recreation staff members have been involved this summer in maintenance inspections at state parks and historic sites. Regional supervisors, managers, maintenance personnel, and staff from the Augusta office have conducted these inspections, which are designed to provide an in-depth examination and recording of repair needs. Staff have evaluated everything from entrance roads to culverts to roof surfaces, establishing priorities and procedures for work. The maintenance inspection work is part of a maintenance management system which represents a major Bureau initiative that will lead to improved budgeting, documentation, and data for repairs to the Bureau's \$75 million physical plant.

### **Ground Water Study**

As a follow up to the Pesticides in Ground Water Study, the Maine Geological Survey, together with the Department of Agriculture, with funding from EPA is conducting a more detailed study of the effect of agricultural chemical use on ground water quality in the Fort Fairfield area of Aroostook County. Objectives of the study are to clarify the findings of the recently completed Pesticides in Ground Water Study and to test the applicability of the D.R.A.S.T.I.C. method of evaluating ground water contamination potential in Maine. Field work began in June and should be completed in October with a report to be published in May-June, 1990.

### **Island Transfer**

The Bureau of Public Lands has completed a transfer of management responsibility for Hardhead Island, located in Penobscot Bay near the Town of Deer Isle, to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Hardhead Island is a significant seabird nesting island.

Public use of the island will be restricted to those months when recreation will not interfere with the critical nesting and fledging periods.

### **Unexploded Ordinance**

The Bureau of Public Lands has been notified by the Navy's Explosive Ordinance Disposal Group in Brunswick, that a WW II Navy vessel which sunk off of Boon Island ledge, York County, still contains live ammunition. Recreational divers have been removing unexploded shells from the ship. BPL has formally asked the Navy to address the problem, since Bureau staff and resources are not adequate to respond to this situation.

### **BPR In The Media**

Many Bureau of Parks and Recreation staff members have been involved in media projects at BPR facilities. Phil Farr, Manager of Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park, appeared on a television special about Anita Harris produced by WCVB Television in Boston. Tim 'Rip' Caverly, Supervisor of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, was featured on a Channel 6 series about the Waterway. David Chaney, Manager at Eagle Island State Historic Site, was interviewed by Channel 6 for a feature on the island. Staff at Sebago Lake State Park will undoubtedly be shown in a recent Japanese production by Nippon Television about summer vacations in the United States, which was filmed at the park. Although Tom Collins, Manager at Fort McClary State Historic Site, and his staff won't be shown in the Hollywood motion picture "Bed and Breakfast," they will be on hand for filming scheduled at the site later this week.

### **ICS Training**

On July 10-15, Fire Control, Management and Utilization, and Insect and Disease Management staff and Forest Fire Overhead Team members were trained in the national Incident Command System (ICS) for multi-agency, emergency response.

ICS may be thought of as a management plan designed to deal with all kinds of emergencies.

The need for ICS was made clear following a 13 day period in 1970 when 16 lives were lost, 700 structures destroyed and one-half million acres were burned in California. In spite of cooperation from all agencies, many problems of communication and coordination blocked their effectiveness. As a result of this fire, Congress appropriated funds to strengthen fire suppression command, control, and research.

The ICS Course was held at E.M.V.T.I. in Bangor, Maine. Approximately 100 people attended this basic training which was divided into three, two-day sessions. The training included explanations of the interactions of the various functions and positions within the Incident Command System structure along with the responsibilities common to all ICS positions. Basic principles of supervision and motivation were also among the course objectives. The Unit Objectives discussed were System Design, System Components, Organization, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance, Responsibility, and Supervisory Techniques.

Leslie Wiles who coordinated the session said, "The multi-bureau participation was great. Another training session will be scheduled before the end of the year for those who were unable to attend in July."

Harry Doughty, (MFS), John Ricard (N.H.) and Al Sands (VT) were instructors.

*John Ricard MEMA May role*