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

Maine Department of Conservation

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# BULLETIN

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September 1989

## Commissioner's Column

Last month we had the unfortunate experience in which MFS Ranger William Greaves was injured while assisting local law enforcement agencies. Fortunately, Bill has recuperated and will soon be back at work.

The Department immediately responded to the incident in several ways:

- John Cashwell was in Washington County and assisted authorities in gathering the necessary information about the incident.
- We made sure the Greaves family had a designated official in the Department to whom they could address questions and concerns about medical insurance and other needs.
- Marshall Wiebe prepared a plan to assist the media in getting factual information.
- We reviewed the current policy on DOC employee participation in requests from other agencies (for emergency assistance).

A number of valuable lessons resulted from the incident. Mr. Greaves had responded appropriately within the existing emergency response policy. It became clear that this incident was an unusual event which we are seldom likely to face.

DOC is recognized as a visible presence in rural areas to which local people are accustomed to turning for help. Each of us shares the desire of being helpful to our fellow citizens and the Department wants to be known as a place where people can get assistance as appropriate.

Law enforcement is a serious matter not to be taken lightly. As a policy, we do not respond to police calls where human conflict is anticipated. We do however, assist when a life-threatening situation may exist, such as during searches for lost persons, car accidents and incidents involving personal injury.

It is our desire to make training available to all employees who have law enforcement authority. This will be a major undertaking with a large commitment of staff time and financial resources required. To pursue this, we are discussing with Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Atwood the desirability of his Department assisting with a coordinated training effort for all natural resource agencies which have law enforcement powers, including DOC, Fish & Wildlife, Marine Resources, Environmental Protection and Public Safety.

The recent incident points out the importance of being prepared with a well organized emergency response plan which emphasizes personal safety, using good judgment and which outlines proper procedures. Thanks to all of you who helped out.

**Ed Meadows**

## DOC Employees to Speak at National Parks and Recreation Workshop

Several Department employees will make presentations at the National Recreation and Park Association/National Society for Park Resources Fall Park Manager Workshop in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire on September 18-20. Jim Rea will present a workshop on software programs for parks; Tim Hall will speak on lifeguard training and lifeguard program management; Tom Skolfield and Bruce Farnham will present a session on law enforcement training issues; and Sheila McDonald will give a workshop on historic site management, which will include a field trip to Fort McClary State Historic Site in Kittery.

## Conservation Notebook

**Tom Morrison, Sue Bell**, and BPL staff conducted a field tour of the Duck Lake Unit for **Senator Michael Pearson**. The tour provided an opportunity for the Bureau to explain all aspects of the Bureau's management program. ••• The Bureau of Public Lands received a total of 64 bids on 9 timber sales according to **Leigh Hoar** of the Land Management Division. The tracts to be harvested are distributed throughout the Bureau's eastern, western, and northern regions. A total of approximately 33,000 cords will be harvested generating income for all phases of BPL's wildlife, recreation, and timber management programs. ••• **Steve Oliveri** and **Joe Wiley** presented a workshop on Wildlife Management Guidelines at Thorndike and Frye Mountain on August 16. The workshop was part of a series of programs being conducted throughout the State to teach professional foresters and landowners how to integrate better wildlife management into their forest management practices. ••• The Bigelow Preserve Management Plan has been completed for the 35,027 acre Unit according to **Tom Doak**. Copies can be obtained from Tom or **Hollis Tedford**. ••• **Steve Oliveri** and **Carol DiBello** attended the Moody Beach Conference August 25, where coastal public trust rights were discussed. ••• **Steve Spencer**, BPL Recreation Specialist, has been working with **Dave Getchell** of the Island Institute, on the possibility of extending the Maine Island Trail into the Cobscook Bay region. ••• BPL's Eastern Region, with assistance from the Insect and Disease Management Division of the Maine Forest Service, provided technical assistance to **Dave Houston** of the U.S. Forest Service in a beech improvement project on the Seboeis Unit, according to **Robin Smith**. ••• **Kim Kolman** is on sick leave and would appreciate hearing from friends. Send those cards and letters to Kim at 20 Summer Street, Augusta 04330. ••• **Leslie Wiles, Andy Mendes** and **Ed Jones** all of the Fire Control Division, have been working on the 1989 Law Enforcement Training Academy which will be held in Waterville September 11 - October 13. ••• **Ed Meadows** will be the guest on WAGM-TV "Potato Pickers Special" September 21. The "Pickers Special" is a favorite Aroostook County talk show broadcast at 4:00 a.m. during the harvesting season. ••• **Joe Kelley** has just published two articles on Maine geology: one on glacial-marine clay deposits of southern Maine in the latest issue of *Northeastern Geology* and an article on the Kennebec Valley in *Habitat* magazine. ••• **Scott Ramsay** and **Brian Bronson** attended a four-day land use workshop sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry in Lamar, Pennsylvania. The workshop, cosponsored by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, included hands-on training in the operation of ATV's as well as courses regarding land management issues. ••• **Peter Bouchard**, MFS project Programmer/Analyst, has helped Fire Control Secretary **Lisa Sirois**, save time formatting U.S. Forest Service telexmail. ••• The contributions of all DOC seasonal workers are appreciated and we wish them well in their future endeavors. This year's summer workers included four interns: **Barbara Keenan**, Project Learning Tree, **Andy Haskell**, forest management, **Sharon Beck**, entomology and **Tamy Parker**, gravel aquifer research. ••• Welcome to new employees **Steve Swatling**, BPL and **Rob Lathrop**, VRA.



## **GREENVILLE - The State Capital**

The next *Capital For a Day* will be September 18 in Greenville. With the major activity of DOC Bureaus in the Greenville area, this will be a good opportunity to have the Governor observe firsthand the facilities, programs and services our Department provides to people in that area. Forestry, Parks, Public Lands and LURC all have field offices in Greenville. The state is a major owner of lands, parks and facilities in the Moosehead Lake region. The *Capital For A Day* program is highly popular with the public in the communities which the Governor and Cabinet visit. For the agencies it is a good opportunity to inform the Governor of the programs we have and the problems we face. More than half the states have *Capital For A Day*. In Oklahoma the program is nicknamed "Dome on the Range."

### **Focus on Environment**

Recently Governor McKernan and his Cabinet members held a staff retreat to discuss strategic planning focused on pressing needs facing the state. Of great importance to DOC, the key theme emerging from the retreat was the focus on the environment and the economy. This presents a great opportunity for the Department to showcase to Maine people the good work we are doing in natural resources planning, protection and management. It also is the perfect opportunity to advance the achievement of Vision and Mission statement goals of providing quality programs and leadership in natural resources management and public natural resources policy. Department representatives will be working with the other natural resources agencies to respond to the planning needs which emerged from the retreat.

### **Gravel Aquifers**

The Maine Geological Survey's Hydrogeology Division, in cooperation with the USGS, has begun the drilling program for the Significant Sand and Gravel Aquifer Study. This year's project is located in the Rangeley area in western Maine. Woody Thompson, Tom Weddle, and Glenn Prescott are mapping aquifer boundaries in the study area while Craig Neil and other project workers are installing monitoring wells following completion of seismic surveys.

### **PLT Annual Reunion Scheduled**

The PLT annual reunion and facilitator training will be held September 28th through October 1st in Phippsburg. This is an exciting year for PLT in Maine as a full-time "Natural Resource Educator" position is authorized in July 1990 under the new Forest Practices Act. The PLT program will fall under the wing of this new position. PLT is always looking for new "facilitators": contact Tom Driscoll, 289-2793, PLT Coordinator.

### **Snowmobile Workshop Set**

Scott Ramsay, Sue Roderick and Jim Mangin of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Off-Road Vehicle Division, are working with the Maine Snowmobile Association to cosponsor a workshop for snowmobile club members on September 23. The workshop, which will host over 200 people, will present topics related to snowmobile safety, trail development and maintenance, and land use permits.

### **ATV Training Held**

Thirty-four Department employees attended an ATV safety training course on August 16, which was given by Brian Bronson, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's ATV Coordinator. The course included four hours of classroom training in the operation of ATVs and was offered as a service to departmental personnel who may have to operate ATVs as part of their work assignments.

## **Parks and Recreation Honors Employees for Outstanding Service**

Bob Hunt, Manager of Rangeley Lake State Park, was cited as the 1989 Manager of the Year at the Bureau's Managers meeting on September 5. Bob has managed Rangeley Lake State Park for the past three seasons following many years of work at Sebago Lake State Park as a ranger and interpretive naturalist. Bob's selection as Manager of the Year was based on his excellent community relations, use of local resources, problem solving abilities, staff management skills, and thorough reports.

Tom Skolfield, Steve Vondell, and Jon Metcalf were also honored at the September 5 meeting and were presented with Outstanding Service Awards.

Tom Skolfield is the Regional Supervisor of the Bureau's Southern Region and was cited for his good judgment, excellent contributions to the new maintenance management system, outstanding efforts to promote training and communication within his region, and his professional handling of a large work load.

Steve Vondell is the Ranger at Camden Hills State Park and was honored for his outstanding workmanship in producing signs for the park system, his excellent work in supervising park operations in the absence of the manager, and his professional handling of maintenance activities at Camden Hills.

Jon Metcalf, Ranger in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, was honored for his excellent public relations skills, extensive knowledge of his area, sound judgment, high standards in monitoring the Waterway environment, and the professional quality of his work.

### **SERVE/Maine-MCC News**

Volunteers at an International Work Camp are spending three weeks this month at Camden Hills State Park working with Manager Gordon Bell and his staff. Administered by the SERVE/Maine program and headquartered at Tanglewood 4-H Camp, the group of ten volunteers from Spain, Germany, France, Poland, Algeria, Wales and the U.S. will contribute time and energy working at both the Park and the 4-H camp.

One of this summer's 25 Maine Conservation Corps teams finished installing 17 privies along the Penobscot River Corridor in late August. Hoping to have 10 in place this summer, both Matt LaRoche, Penobscot Corridor Manager and Steve Curtis, State Parks Operation Supervisor, credited the "outstanding" MCC team with installing more privies in less time than scheduled. Both the public and Department staff praised the crew's accomplishments in helping solve an important backcountry outdoor recreation management problem.

The MCC plans four projects this fall. They are with Auburn Parks and Recreation, Lake St. George State Park, Eastport Port Authority and White Mountain National Forest.

### **Food and Forestry Trade Center Proposal Discussed**

The possibility of locating a Maine Food and Forestry International Trade Center at the University of Maine is being explored. Representatives of the Federal government met with Maine officials to discuss this opportunity. Vice President Greg Brown of the University of Maine, hosted the meeting and was assisted by State Forester John Cashwell and Bernie Rogan of the Department of Agriculture.

**TODAY IS WORK AREA CLEAN-UP  
DAY IN THE HARLOW BUILDING**