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

Maine Department of Conservation

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# BULLETIN

*Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation*

October 1989

## Commissioner's Column

When the President chose a Maine Tree Farm as the place to talk about the public benefits and environmental values of forest lands and to announce his support for extending capital gains treatment to taxes on forest resources, the Department was called on to make the arrangements in less than 48 hours. This meant substantial changes in plans and schedules for many Department employees. Security needs meant the reason behind the activity had to be secret—even from those of you who provided transportation, telephoning, airport transportation and other assistance. I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who were called on to assist. Your efforts were very helpful to the State Police, town officials, the media and the White House staff. Your professionalism was evident: One White House staff member commented on "the well-oiled Department of Conservation machine." This was praise for how effectively and smoothly the arrangements came together.

The occasion gave us an opportunity for a half hour talk with southern Maine television stations and newspapers about forest management. The anticipation of the President's arrival provided keen interest from the media in the details and problems of forest management and forest taxation. This was an excellent opportunity for the Department to play a leading role in an important event.

One of the elements of our Departmental Vision Statement is personal and professional development opportunities for Department employees. The amount of activity in that effort this summer and fall has been exciting. Three Department divisions held staff "retreats" to analyze work procedures, working relationships and "looking ahead" issues. LURC, Public Lands and Engineering & Realty all held sessions during September. The LURC retreat involved LURC Commissioners also. These are not the only such "getting organized" conferences being held. Parks, Forestry and Administrative Services senior supervisors have been meeting on similar issues. The Bureau of Parks & Recreation held its annual employee field day picnic also in September. The Law Enforcement Training Academy was held all during the month and was well received by all of those in attendance.

We have plans to continue our efforts in staff development and to upgrade our training capability over the next several months. Your Bureau Director is always interested in suggestions for topics which should be covered in such training programs.

*Ed Meadows*

### **Governor Nominates Four to Citizens' Forestry Advisory Council**

Four people were nominated to the Citizens' Forestry Advisory Council by Governor John McKernan on September 29. The nominees, who must be confirmed by the Senate, are:

Charles E. Hewett, South Casco; Robert V. Withrow, Dixfield; Toby B. Hammond, Naples, and Wallace Jeffrey, Hampden Highlands.

## Conservation Notebook

**Bill Pratt**, VRA Manager, attended the National Conference of State Fleet Administrators (NCSFA) in Portland, Oregon during September. A charter member of NCSFA, Bill gave a presentation on rate structures for daily rental vehicles and was also appointed to the Nominating Committee. ••• **Steve Spencer**, BPL, helped the Maine Island Trail Association organize a litter clean-up of Casco Bay Islands and **Carol DiBello**, BPL, took part in the Rockland Harbor tour, both in conjunction with Coastweek, September 23 - 30. Fourteen parks and historic sites also hosted Coastweek activities this year with coastal cleanups, special programs and tours. ••• **Steve Oliveri** and **Carol DiBello** attended a Harbor Management Workshop at Wells Reserve. ••• **Steve Oliveri** represented the Bureau of Public Lands at the annual Submerged Lands Conference at South Padre, Texas in October ••• BPL held a fall training session September 25-27, hosted by Southern Regional Manager **Tom Charles**. The training session included visits to several public land parcels. ••• **Robin Smith**, BPL Eastern Regional Manager, participated in a panel discussion titled "Forest Practices Today," representing the Bureau's multiple-use program in the Eastern Region. **Kathy Nitschke**, MFS Forester, also participated. ••• **Steve Swatling**, Bigelow Preserve Forester, attended the October Society of American Foresters Conference ••• **Steve** and **Ralph Knoll** will be attending the Western Maine Alliance tour/workshop on October 28. One of the tour stops will be the Bigelow Preserve. ••• **Fred Todd** represented LURC at a meeting of the St. Croix International Waterway Commission where there was a discussion of land use issues relating to the St. Croix River. ••• **Fred Griffith** and **Gary Sukeforth**, LURC staffers, attended a three day training seminar on wetlands delineation and mapping. ••• **Jeff TenPas**, LURC Education Coordinator, and **Ed Meadows**, recently appeared on the "Pickers' Special" on WAGM-TV in Presque Isle. Ed spoke about the Department's programs and Jeff discussed LURC permit requirements. ••• **Scott Ramsay** of BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division has had an article about snowmobiling published in the Maine Publicity Bureau's Winter Guide. Scott attended a Northeast Chapter meeting of the International Association of Snowmobile Program Administrators in New Hampshire. The administrators visited two New Hampshire multi-use trails and discussed snowmobile administration issues such as the North East Snowmobile Trail (NEST), program funding and management concerns. ••• **Brian Bronson**, BPR's ATV Coordinator, recently completed and passed a 3-day course that certifies him to teach safe ATV use. ••• **Larry Hunter**, Manager at Roque Bluffs State Park in Machias, was recently featured in a *Bangor Daily News* article about the park. ••• Marine Geologists **Joe Kelley** and **Steve Dickson** recently completed a series of dives in the submarine "Delta". The purpose of this work was to examine sea-floor dumping sites for dredged material, retrieve sediment traps and explore the Jeffries Ledge area. ••• **Maynard Thornton**, Assistant Eastern Regional Ranger, outlined forest fire safety for loggers in the Fall 1989 issue of *WOODSWORKER* newsletter.



### **Personnel News**

#### • PROMOTIONS

**Melissa Boardman** to a Clerk Typist III position with Insect & Disease Management.

**Richard Bardbury** to Entomologist III. John Titus to Lifeguard Coordinator.

#### • TRANSFER

**Kenny Wing** to Cupsuptic District Ranger.

#### • RESIGNED

**Romeo Michaud**, Supervisor of the Accounting Unit, has accepted employment in the private sector.

### **Commissioner Keynotes**

#### **Edison Electric Institute Meeting**

Commissioner Meadows and Craig Ten Broeck of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation attended the Edison Electric Institute Annual Land Management Workshop, hosted this year by Central Maine Power Company at Sugarloaf. Utility representatives from across the country came to discuss issues of concern, not only to utilities but to states and localities as well, including relicensing of hydroelectric facilities, providing public recreation opportunities at hydro-power projects and managing utility lands for multiple purposes. During a luncheon on September 25th, Commissioner Meadows gave the keynote address in which he praised Central Maine Power Company for development and implementation of a Corporate Recreational Facilities Plan.

#### **Busy Summer for MCC-SERVE/Maine**

The MCC has wrapped up its most successful summer season yet, and fall projects are under way at White Mt. National Forest, Evans Notch District, Lake St. George State Park, the Eastport Port Authority and the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department. Two veteran team leaders, Scott Wilson and Jon Damarest are at Lake St. George and Auburn respectively. Team Leader Jon Damarest returns after guiding corpmembers this summer at Lewiston's Thornecrag Sanctuary. This project was so successful, it has been nominated by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service for a national award.

Several amateur and professional photographers enjoyed wilderness experiences this summer while photographing some of Maine's most beautiful scenery for natural resource agencies. SERVE/Maine volunteer photographers canoed both the Allagash and Penobscot Rivers, taking photos to enhance the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and The Penobscot River Corridor's slide programs. Additionally, a Colby College student and amateur photographer, toured the state documenting Maine Conservation Corps work projects while gathering information for his senior project on the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

#### **Cieslinski Speaks in N.Y.**

Tom Cieslinski made a presentation at the recent national meeting of state outdoor recreation liaison officers for the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund program in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Tom, who is incoming president of the National Association of State Recreation Planners, spoke to the group about new visions for federal guidelines for state recreation planning.

Tom then attended a weekend workshop in Chicago to work on revision of the federal planning guidelines with other state planners, two National Park Service employees and the liaison officer from Missouri.

### **Fifty Graduate from Law Enforcement Academy**

Thirty-four Forest Rangers and a Ranger Pilot, and fifteen Park Rangers graduated on October 6, 1989, from the Conservation Officer Law Enforcement Academy in Waterville. The class was the second to participate in the four-week law enforcement training program this year.

In his graduation ceremony remarks, Commissioner Meadows said that the Department is serious about providing the training necessary to carrying out assigned law enforcement tasks.

"I am very concerned about expecting employees to carry out law enforcement duties without the necessary training in proper procedures. The Department's objective in law enforcement is similar to our objective with the Land Use Regulation Commission Program. We would like to take an educational approach to help people know what they need to do to comply with the law to avoid violations and to manage and use the state's natural resources in a better manner. We are more interested in prevention than we are in arresting and enforcing. With this training academy, we hope to develop employees as first class "coaches" who can help the public do a better job of good management and thereby prevent environmental problems before they happen," Commissioner Meadows said.

#### **1990 SOBA Conference Slated for Maine**

Dick Skinner, of BPR's Boating Facilities Division, recently returned from the Third Annual Conference of the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) in Duluth, Minnesota. The purpose of the organization is to promote the acquisition, development, and administration of recreational boating facilities; provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences; foster federal-state cooperation and coordination in boating facility design, construction, and financing; and seek new and preserve existing funding sources supporting recreational boating facilities. Currently, 44 states have membership in the organization. The Fourth Annual SOBA Conference will be held in Portland, Maine, September 22-26, 1990.

#### **DOC represented at NMW's New Brunswick Trip**

Del Ramey, BPL Northern Regional Manager; Harry Doughty; MFS Northern Regional Ranger; Steve Curtis, BRP Supervisor of Park Operations and Maintenance, and Marshall Wiebe, DOC Director of Public Information, attended the North Maine Woods Annual Meeting and Field Tour in late September. The three-day bus tour into New Brunswick, Canada gave the group a look at recreation and forest management activities on Fraser, Inc. and J.D. Irving lands.

#### **Thompson Documents Mineral Finds**

Woody Thompson has been documenting recent mineral discoveries in western Maine, including the amethyst find in Sweden and a mining operation at the Bennett Feldspar Quarry in Buckfield. The Maine Geological Survey has assisted the State Museum in obtaining large display specimens of crystals from both localities. Mineralogists from Harvard University and the Smithsonian Institution have also visited these sites and expressed interest in studying them. A gemmy pink beryl crystal was just unearthed at the Bennett Quarry and is said to be one of the finest such specimens ever found in Maine.