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Bulletin: Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation, May 1990

Maine Department of Conservation

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BULLETIN

Prepared for the Employees of the Maine Department of Conservation

May 1990

Commissioner's Column

As I travel the State I hear strong support for the Department of Conservation and appreciation for our work. Your efforts have translated directly into the support the department is receiving from the legislature, the administration, and Maine citizens.

During the budget reduction effort that supported the governor and the legislature to show great interest in the department and our proposed budget reduction plan. With their support and helpful suggestions, that plan was approved with only slight variation. I discussed these budget proposals with you in previous newsletters. We even were fortunate to gain modest new funding for certain specific projects. The fact that we received new funding in a time of overall budget reductions indicates the department's high level of support.

..."The start of a new field season is a good time for all of us to think of ways to operate more efficiently."

We were able to make the budget reductions without major setback to most programs. The department is sound and healthy overall. Now we need to manage our programs and project budgets carefully. I seek your suggestions on how we can operate more efficiently. The start of a new field season is a good time for all of us to think of ways to operate more efficiently. Even small savings count, and every dollar we save in one area means a greater ability to support other program.

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Fred Holt. Fred served as the last commissioner of the Department of Forestry before the Department of Conservation was created. Memorial tree plantings will be dedicated on June 24 at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta to commemorate Fred Holt and Al Nutting.

The Department recently sent information on the Employee Voluntary Savings Program to all permanent employees. Everyone is encouraged to review the material carefully and to participate.

Ed Meadows

BPL Land Exchange Approved by Legislature

17 miles of Moosehead's shoreline protected

Permanent protection of 9,500 acres with more than 17 miles of shoreline on Moosehead Lake has been assured by a new land acquisition. The Bureau of Public Lands will acquire 7,500 acres adjacent to Mt. Kineo and add 1,500 acres to the Little Squaw Mountain Unit. BPL will also acquire 3,000 feet of frontage on Bald Mountain Pond, close to the Appalachian Trail. Public access to state-owned lands in the Greenville and Jackman areas will be improved by the transaction. The acquisitions are part of a coordinated State effort to insure long-term land conservation in the Moosehead Region. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife also made recent acquisitions in the area.

Conservation Notebook

Bruce Reed of the Fire Control Equipment Committee organized a videotaped demonstration of the use of firefighting foam at Old Town. •• *Improving Effectiveness Through Wildfire Equipment and Technology* is the theme of the Northeast Fire Supervisors 24th annual meeting in Portland June 18-21. •• **John Cashwell** hosted a delegation of Russian visitors who arrived in late April for a two-week stay. The Russians visited biomass operations, mills and Acadia National Park. •• Two-hundred people from as far away as Ontario and Virginia attended the MGS mineral symposium and field trip on April 21-22 according to **Woody Thompson**. •• **Steve Dickson** presented an exhibit on behalf of MGS at Maine Audubon's Earth Day open house in Falmouth. •• **Joe Wiley**, BPL, attended a project management workshop in Augusta and reports progress on the Thompson Deadwater waterfowl nesting habitat impoundment project at Reed Plantation. •• Thanks go to all those who participated in the Earth Day Celebration at the State House in April. •• **Tom Charles**, **Vern Labbe**, **George Ritz**, and **Pete Smith** of BPL attended a workshop on natural regeneration at the University of New Brunswick. •• BPL's northern region staff were among more than 100 who attended a DEP sponsored workshop in Presque Isle entitled, "Harvesting for the 90's". **Del Ramey** spoke on managing public lands. •• **Ralph Knoll** and **Steve Swatling**, BPL western region, spoke about Bigelow Preserve at the Sugarloaf Area Chamber of Commerce in March. •• Steve, Bigelow Preserve Manager, also spoke about the Preserve at the Annual Meeting of the Appalachian Trail Club in April. •• **Marc Albert**, BPL western region, attended an environmental regulation workshop in March. •• Steve Swatling, attended the Tree Farm inspectors workshop in April •• Congratulations to **Hazel Hill** of BPL's Old Town office who has earned membership in Phi Beta Kappa honorary society. Hazel will soon receive a B. S. degree in elementary education from the University of Maine and will be student teaching in LaGrange this fall. •• **Steve Swatling** spoke to the Strong Elementary School 2nd graders about the Bigelow Preserve and the Appalachian Trail. •• **Ralph Knoll** spoke on forestry and Public Lands and presented a slide show on the Bigelow Preserve at Lewiston High School in April. •• **Jeff TenPas**, LURC, spoke on forest planning at a New Hampshire workshop. •• **Craig Ten Broeck** recently spoke on public recreational access on Maine's waters at the spring conference of the Maine Recreation and Park Association in Bangor. •• **Scott Ramsay** worked recently with snowmobile program professionals in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and Quebec to establish guidelines for the Northeast Snowmobile Trail which will be in place next winter. •• **Brian Bronson** spoke to 140 people from the Penobscot County Conservation Association concerning the experimental ATV trail at Mount Blue State Park and received a positive response to the trail and its objectives. •• **Jay McIntosh** completed the standard first-aid and CPR instructors course sponsored by the American Red Cross and will be instructing Bureau of Parks and Recreation field staff in first-aid and CPR procedures. •• Numerous Bureau of Parks and Recreation office

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and field staff have attended a recertification course in pesticides application sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. •• The Bureau of Parks and Recreation Boating Facilities Division has begun checking 24 waterbodies to ensure that navigational aids are on station and winter damage is corrected. **Tim Thurston** and **Rod Cooper** are the primary staff members in this project and expect to complete their work by Memorial Day. •• Boating Facilities Division staff member **Nelson Peterson** has supervised and completed repair work on the Lake St. George boat ramp in Liberty. •• **Susan Caverly**, clerk for the Allagash Waterway, reports that ice was out of northern Round Pond (Michaud Farm District), Umsaskis, and Long Lakes as of May first.

Gary Morse Recognized with Award

The **Outstanding Contributions to Forest Industry Education Award** has been presented to forester Gary Morse by the Northeastern Loggers' Association and *The Northern Logger and Timber Processor* magazine.

Gary was selected for recognition because of his activities and accomplishments in logging safety and education for the past two decades. Gary's work as a director of the Northern Woods Safety Foundation and as writer/editor of the Maine Forest Service's *Loggers' News* were among the reasons cited for the presentation.

Gary joined the Forest Service in 1966 and has been active in training and information activities.

Forest Rangers Commended

Forest rangers Steve Day and Dwayne Long have been commended by medical staff at Millinocket Regional Hospital for "excellent first aid" they gave a telemark skier who was injured near Chimney Pond in Baxter State Park this winter.

Steve and Dwayne, who were on annual leave as volunteer park rangers at the time of the accident, "not only stabilized the patient, but reduced his dislocation. The patient had no neurologic or vascular compromise when I evaluated him," a hospital staffer wrote in a letter expressing appreciation for a "job well done."

Dedication Set for June 24

Two plantings of trees in commemoration of Al Nutting and Fred Holt and their contributions to Maine forest conservation will be dedicated at the Pine Tree State Arboretum on June 24 at 2 p.m.

Contributions toward the plantings may be made to Austin Wilkins, 3 Blaine Avenue, Augusta, Maine 04330.

Al Nutting served as Maine forest commissioner from 1948-1958. Fred Holt succeeded Austin Wilkins as forest commissioner upon Austin's retirement in 1972. He became the first director of the Maine Forest Service when the Department of Conservation was created in 1973.

MCC Goes to Yellowstone?

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) has been invited back to Yellowstone National Park again this summer to participate in the 1990 Greater Yellowstone Recovery Corps. Last year 29 conservation corps worked at Yellowstone. Due to drastic reduction in funding this year, there will be 11 volunteer teams and only one conservation corps team. Based primarily on the outstanding performance of last year's MCC team, the Maine Conservation Corps has been invited to send the only corps team this summer.

The MCC will go to Yellowstone only if a grant to pay for the team's air fare is secured. A grant proposal has been submitted and a decision on that proposal will be announced in early June.

Personnel News

New Employees

- Henry Whittemore, chief planner, BPL.
- Matthew Bley, submerged lands coordinator, BPL.
- George Ritz, forester I, eastern region, BPL.
- Linda Milligan, Allagash receptionist, BPR.
- Eric Hoar, assistant Allagash ranger, BPR.

On Leave

- John Williams from director MGS hydrology division to director of Low -Level Radioactive Waste Authority.

Acting

- Tom Weddle, director, MGS hydrology division.

Resigned

- Troy Smith from MGS to consulting firm.

Retired

- Lee Hafford, Allagash ranger, BPR.
- Faye Hafford, Allagash receptionist, BPR.

Promotion

- Dave Milligan, Allagash ranger, BPR.

Award Presented to Jerry Gaboury

Jerry Gaboury was recently recognized by the Employee Suggestion Awards Board for an energy savings suggestion relating to use of copy machines. Jerry was presented a certificate by Governor McKernan at an award ceremony held in the State House for employees whose suggestions were accepted by a special committee set up for that purpose. Commissioner Morrison of the Department of Administration hosted the event.

Island Trail Wins National Recognition

The Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) was among the top 70 volunteer projects in the nation selected for a citation from the President's Volunteer Action Award Program. The Bureau of Public Lands has worked very closely with MITA over the past 3 years, and many bureau managed islands are included in the Island Trail that is maintained by volunteers.

New Geological Survey Publications

The five remaining volumes in the "Studies in Maine Geology" series are now available from MGS. These volumes encompass a wide variety of geologic investigations that were published on the occasion of the MGS sesquicentennial. Another major MGS publication was also released last week - "Neotectonics of Maine", which includes studies related to sea-level change, crustal movements, and earthquakes in Maine.

SERVE/Maine and GIS Team Up

The GIS logo and newsletter masthead, which were recently unveiled in the first edition of *VIEWES*, the GIS newsletter, were designed by Donna Marshall, a student at the Central Maine Technical College (CMTC). Donna, a graphics student, accomplished the design work as a volunteer thru SERVE/Maine. Other CMTC students working on SERVE/Maine volunteer projects produced the camera ready art work for the Penobscot River Corridor brochure and have started designing a Maine Conservation Corps brochure.

Voluntary Cost Savings Program Deadline Approaching

The deadline for submitting final application for the Voluntary Cost Saving Program is May 31. The application form sent to all permanent employees in late April described six options: sabbatical leave, voluntary reduced workweek, position leave, flexible position staffing, time off without pay, and retirement incentive. Employees are encouraged to consider participating. Contact Will Harris at 2211 for more information.