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

Maine Department of Conservation

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Commissioner's Column

Protecting Maine's landscape...

2 Programs dealing with a basic Maine treasure - our state's landscape - are found in every DOC bureau and division. Nothing is more basic to our quality of life. Indeed, how we interact with the landscape is basic to our very lives—our work, play, raising a family and the way we choose to live.

3 We have seen the Maine landscape change rapidly in recent years. Many new laws were put into effect to deal with it: growth management, the Forest Practices Act, the Natural Resources Protection Act, Endangered Species Act and others.

7 Implementing these new laws will be a challenge to all of us - as well as the opportunity we have to directly influence the quality of Maine's environment in perpetuity.

"...Our goal is to establish rules which will lead toward a forest of improved quality, diversity, value, wildlife habitat and appearance..."

This month, rules will be adopted by the Bureau of Forestry regulating clearcutting and forest regeneration for the first time. This is an important milestone in Maine. Our goal is to establish rules which will lead toward a forest of improved quality, diversity, value, wildlife habitat and appearance. The rules will go into effect January 1, 1991.

This will be one of the most significant actions affecting Maine's landscape undertaken by this department in many years. It will be important to carefully monitor the results. In the last three years, the Bureau of Forestry has created the capability to gather and analyze the best data that has ever been compiled on Maine forests. But just as important as gathering the data is making it available to landowners and the public so that they have the best information from which to make forestry decisions. Here too, Forestry has made significant improvements in its ability to provide information to the public including creation of the Forest Information Center, establishing an 800 number for the public to request information and in working with landowner groups to educate woodlot owners.

In addition, the department has made significant progress in providing assistance for proper forestry incentives, for encouraging public access, analyzing long-term needs, studying conversion of forest land to other uses and compiling data needed for sound policy decisions. We will work with all interests to monitor the impact of the new rules to ensure that Maine's forests have a bright future.

Congratulations to Dalton Kirk, who was honored recently as the Manager of the Year by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and to other BPR managers who have been recognized for exceptional service. Congratulations also to Anna Woodward, Daniel Pratt, Donald Copeland, Walter Gooley, Ronald Yates, William Cleaves, Philip Mayo and Russell Horning, DOC's 1990 Career Public Service Honorees.

Ed Meadows

Eight DOC Employees Recognized for Public Service

Eight DOC employees were among 179 state workers honored at the Career Public Service Recognition Ceremony held during Employee Recognition Week. Receiving recognition pins for their public service were:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|----------|
| Anna Woodward | MFS | 25 years |
| Daniel Pratt | MFS | 25 years |
| Donald Copeland | MFS | 25 years |
| Walter Gooley | MFS | 30 years |
| Ronald Yates | BPR | 30 years |
| William Cleaves | BPR | 30 years |
| Philip Mayo | BPR | 30 years |
| Russell Horning | MFS | 30 years |

BPR Names Dalton Kirk 1990 Manager of the Year

A recent end-of-the-season meeting was held at Reid State Park for Bureau of Parks and Recreation field staff. The meeting included a review of the season's carry in, carry out policy, training program, up-coming winter projects and 1990 operational issues. Several awards were also presented to management staff.

Dalton Kirk, manager of Reid State Park in Georgetown, received the 1990 Manager of the Year Award.

Bureau Director Herb Hartman, in presenting the award, cited Dalton's long record of exemplary work, dependability, staff management skills and high professional standards. Dalton has worked for the bureau since 1957, beginning as a ranger and acting manager at Sebago Lake State Park. He continued in a variety of positions including manager of Aroostook State Park, regional supervisor, and assistant director of operations and maintenance. He has managed Reid State Park for 21 years.

In addition to the Manager of the Year Award, Outstanding Service Awards were presented to six bureau staff members:

- Patty Bailey, Interpretive Specialist
- John Scott, Manager at Crescent Beach and Two Lights State Parks
- Mick Rogers, Manager at Lake St. George State Park
- Leland Griffin, Manager at Lamoine State Park
- Jim Kelly, Allagash Ranger
- Pat Reardon, Allagash Ranger

Conservation Officer Training Academy Underway

Department of Conservation employees from the Bureaus of Parks and Recreation, Forestry, and Public Lands, and the Land Use Regulation Commission are attending the Conservation Officer Training Academy in Waterville.

The program began on September 4 and continues for five weeks. The course includes presentations by law enforcement specialists including a number of DOC employees on Maine conservation law, police agency organization, investigation, patrol, and arrest procedures, and crisis/conflict management.

BPR Hosts National Conference

PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS



Bureau of Parks and Recreation
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Dick Skinner, supervisor of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Boating Facilities Division, is in charge of local arrangements and planning for this year's national meeting of the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA), which will be held September 22-26 in Portland.

Several bureau and department staff will be involved in the conference, which is expected to draw over 100 people from across the country who work in boating facility programs. Herb Hartman will be welcoming the group to Maine at the beginning of the conference. Craig Ten Broeck, Maine rivers coordinator, will deliver a talk on the Maine Rivers Program. Ed Meadows, DOC commissioner, will deliver a keynote address on boat access issues at the conference banquet, which will be held on Monday, September 24.

In addition to the numerous workshops and presentations on all aspects of boating facilities development, design and funding, the conference will include a field trip to several of Maine's boat access sites including the Fore River Launch in South Portland, Nonesuch River Boat Launch in Scarborough and the Saco River Boat Facility in Biddeford.

Land Management Responsibilities Clarified

The Bureau of Public Lands is working with the Department of Corrections to amend the 1978 transfer agreement for the public land in Warren which will be the site of new prison construction. The amendment will enable Corrections to construct the new facilities and will clarify management responsibility for the rest of the property. Restrictions and uncertainties in the original transfer agreement between Public Lands and Corrections made it necessary to develop an amendment that would address the construction and land management issues. Under the new agreement, Public Lands retains responsibility for general land management and will provide forest management assistance to the Maine State Prison.

MGS Resubmits CREST Proposal

The Maine Geological Survey has resubmitted the CREST proposal (Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers) to the National Science Foundation. If funded, the project will generate much needed curriculum materials and summer internships for Maine's earth science teachers. MGS is also helping to organize the winter meeting of the Geological Society of Maine, which will focus on the status and needs of earth science education in the state's public schools. Woody Thompson is the MGS coordinator for CREST and related activities.

Lauren Foster New MGS Geology Technician

The Maine Geological Survey summer field program for the significant aquifer mapping program is winding to a close. Most of the summer help are returning to school; however, Lauren Foster has accepted a position as geology technician with MGS. Lauren has just graduated from Colby College and comes to MGS full-time after three summers swatting black flies and swinging a sledgehammer on the seismic crew. The experience provides continuity to MGS programs. We welcome Lauren to the Department of Conservation.

Cooperative Forest Fire Training

Twenty-two Maine forest rangers attended a Fire Investigation Course and Foam Workshop in Fredrickton, New Brunswick in August.

New Brunswick and Maine are members of the Northeast Forest Fire Compact which promotes cooperative training. This course was just one of many that the forest protection agencies have jointly participated in.

Attending were: Harry Doughty, Steve Day, Paul Perry, Peter Pelletier, Roddie McLellan, Jim Dyer, Keith Smith, Lise Herold, Mark Mayhew, Bruce Small, Leslie Thornton, Bill Hamilton, Bill Getchell, Brad Barrett, Dave York, Todd Weeks, Mark Berube, Gary Santerre, Ed Holman, Greg Hesslein, Bill Williams and Rick Cole.

Fire Control Personnel Return From Forest Fires in Western States

Forest Fire Control Division personnel Harry Doughty, Michael Ricci, Mark Berube, Bill Greaves, Gary Cook, Joe Pelletier, Alan Johnston, Dick Libby, Russ Landry, Otis Gray, Rick Henion, Courtney Hammond and Claudette Desautels traveled to western states this summer to provide expertise to the U.S. Forest Service in the battle against this year's forest fires. Members of the group went to California, Idaho and Minnesota.

A growing problem associated with these fires is the large number of year-round and seasonal dwellings located within these forested areas. Each year, the number of homes lost in forest fires increases. Here in Maine, the Forest Fire Control Division is providing guidance to town planning boards to help combat this Wildland Urban Interface problem.

Informational brochures, as well as a recently aired public service announcement, provide the public with an awareness and suggestions on how they can better protect themselves against this type of disaster. Approximately 200 homes were lost in the western fires that Maine Forest Service personnel were assigned to. Several homes have been destroyed by Maine forest fires this year.

1990 Fall Foliage Reports Begin

Continuing a tradition begun decades ago, Forest Fire Control Division employees today began making reports of 1990 fall foliage conditions.

From their vantage points throughout the state, fire tower personnel, forest rangers and others in the division will estimate the percentage of colored leaves and leaf fall in each of seven weather zones. Their observations are reported by radio to Bolton Hill along with forest fire information each Wednesday in early autumn. Bolton Hill Radio Operator Ed Jones relays the information to Public Information Section Secretary Lori Blier, who compiles the report and makes it available to the Maine Publicity Bureau and others who provide fall foliage reports directly to the public.

Fall foliage attracts thousands of visitors to Maine and is the basis for significant economic activity in many areas, helping to bridge summer and winter tourist seasons. For that reason, DOC supplied foliage information is in great demand and appreciated by Maine's tourism industry. Made available via the Maine Publicity Bureau's toll free phone line, the estimates of leaf coloration made by Fire Control Division observers is disseminated throughout the country.

The Public Information Section has summarized times of peak leaf coloration during past seasons. This data and information about autumn coloration is available upon request to the section by anyone planning a fall foliage trip.