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Bulletin: Maine Department of Conservation Employee Newsletter, October 1990

Maine Department of Conservation

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October
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BULLETIN

Maine Department of Conservation Employee Newsletter

Commissioner's Column

As field season winds down for another year, I thank each of you for making this a successful season. It was a busy and challenging summer and a safe one with few accidents. Fortunately, the number of fire starts remained low. Field programs in Geology, LURC, Parks, MCC, Public Lands and SERVE/Maine all made significant accomplishments and provided increased opportunities for the public to use and understand Maine's great outdoors. Administrative Services rose to the challenge of a busy field season by meeting demands placed on payroll and accounting functions while continuing to implement the MFASIS system. The division continues to work with bureaus to prepare budgets for the next biennium.

We know how hard everyone worked to make all this happen, and we appreciate your dedication and contributions.

It was a pleasure to get around and visit field operations and attend the fall meetings. It is important for us to hear what is on your mind, so we can incorporate your views and needs into the department policy-making process.

Earlier this year, I commented on the positive mail we have received regarding the accomplishments of department employees. Recently I received several more favorable letters from members of the public who appreciated the assistance they had been given. We will begin a program to post such letters so they can be shared by all.

Our vision and mission statements for the department describe our goal of striving for excellence and providing quality, professional service to the public. It is nice to know that those efforts are noticed and appreciated.

Once again, it is MSECCA campaign time. MSECCA, and the worthy programs it supports, are something which I strongly favor because of the help they provide to so many Maine people. Forestry Director John Cashwell will be our MSECCA coordinator this year. This is a department-wide effort. I plan to continue my support and hope you can help with whatever assistance you feel is appropriate.

Ed Meadows

State Parks/Historic Sites

Bond Issue on November 6 Ballot

State parks and historic sites under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be the subject of a bond issue that will appear as Question 8 on the November 6 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the \$5 million bond issue will fund \$3.5 million of major capital improvements at state park facilities throughout Maine. Specific projects will include replacement of drinking water supply systems at four state parks and replacement of failing or obsolete water system components at 14 additional state parks; replacement of failing or obsolete septic systems components at 15 state parks; roof restoration at Fort Knox State Historic Site; restoration of exterior walls at Montpelier State Historic Site; and upgrade of facilities at 14 state parks to provide better access for persons with disabilities.

1990 Down East Environmental Award Goes to Joseph Kelley

The 1990 Down East Environmental Award was presented to Dr. Joseph T. Kelley of the Maine Geological Survey by Governor McKernan on September 27 at the Blaine House. The award was made to Joe Kelley for his leadership in protection of the Maine coast. Kelley is the director of the Marine Geology Division and an author of the book, *Living with the Coast of Maine*.

Davis Thomas, the editor of *Down East* magazine, presented information on the history of the award and introduced the governor. A large number of people attended the award presentation including Commissioner Edwin Meadows; Deputy Commissioner Susan Bell; State Geologist Walter Anderson; Dr. Bradford Hall, chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Maine; colleagues from the MGS; family members and friends from around the state.

The January 1990 issue of *Down East* magazine (Vol. 36, No. 6, p. 76) profiled Joe Kelley's efforts in coastal resource conservation and honored him with the award.

Volunteers From Around the World Work in Maine

Eighteen volunteers arrived from Belgium, East and West Germany, France, England, Spain, Argentina and the U.S.A. to work at two SERVE/Maine International Workcamps sponsored by BPL and BPR. The Goose Eye Trail Workcamp was jointly sponsored by BPL and the Hurricane Outward Bound School. BPL staff Ralph Knoll, Steve Spencer, Steve Swatling and Mike Cooper coordinated the volunteer group which accomplished over 425 hours of trail work on the Mahoosuc Unit Goose Eye Mountain Trail during the last two weeks of August.

In September, BPR and the Tanglewood 4-H Camp sponsored a two-week International Workcamp in Camden for the second year. The volunteers shingled roofs of two buildings, worked on hiking trails and split and stacked more than 15 cords of firewood for the BPR Maintenance Shop under the supervision of BPR staff Jarvis Johnson, Chris O'Jala, Steve Vondell, W.E. Burnham and Tanglewood Director Jim Dunham. BPR staff arranged for the volunteers to be given a "down east" banquet by the Rockland Vocational Technical Institute's cooking program.

DOC Participates in Fryeburg Fair

The Forest Service, the Bureau of Public Lands, and MCC-SERVE/Maine participated in the 1990 Fryeburg Fair from September 30 to October 7. Agency staff talked with visitors to the new Forest Resources Building where several displays and exhibits featured information on forest fire prevention, the Forest Practices Act, wildlife and forest management, silviculture and recreation. Display items included a "Wet Willey" (privy), forest management and fire fighting tools and a BPL cedar picnic table.

Commissioner Meadows officially opened the Forest Resources Building on Sunday, September 30.

Conservation Notebook

- Sebago Lake State Park has benefited from a recent cooperative project with the Maine Correctional Center. A crew of six inmates, supervised by Park Manager **Phil Mayo** and Ranger **Steve Garron**, painted and stained all of the buildings in the park.
- **Henry Stevenson**, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's new staff member at Meeting House Eddy, began his duties by hosting five bus-loads of boat access professionals from across the country. The visit to Meeting House Eddy was part of a recent conference of the States Organization for Boat Access held in Portland and hosted by the Boating Facilities Program of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation.
- Several state parks and historic sites have hosted **Coast Week** activities from September 29 through October 6. Coastal cleanups brought many volunteers to Two Lights, Crescent Beach, Popham Beach, Fort Point, Holbrook Island, Reid, Wolfe's Neck Woods and Fort Knox. Parks staff report a great deal of interest and work accomplished in this annual event.
- BPL's three-day September staff meeting included visits to Chesuncook Village, old growth pine on Gero Island, the Telos Unit, and Baxter's scientific forest management area. Presentations were made to the group by **Tim Caverly**, **Cathy Ward** and others. Thanks go to **Del Ramey** and staff who organized this year's training and also to all who helped staff the Augusta office during the training session.
- Rules regulating bear baiting on Public Lands are being established according to **Joe Wiley**. The rules will establish procedures for allocating bait sites and will establish fees. The proposed rules will be similar to those used by most other landowners to manage bear baiting. BPL will adopt the rules by January 1, 1990.
- The recently posted natural science educator position will have primary responsibility for the PLT program in addition to staff, industry and landowner education programs. This new staff position and the commitment to cooperative quality educational programming is the next step forward in the department's long range plans to bring the story of Maine's forests to our citizens. For more information about PLT or the position, contact **Tom Doak** in Augusta (289-2791).
- **Woody Thompson** led a field trip for faculty and staff of the University of Maine's Institute of Quaternary Studies on the weekend of September 29-30. The trip examined the geology, botanical history, and archaeology of the upper Androscoggin River basin from Rumford across the mountains of western Maine. This region is among several areas of the state in which the Maine Geological Survey and the University will cooperate in studies of rapid global climate change with funding from the National Science Foundation.

PLT Awards

Project Learning Tree awards were presented to several DOC employees or former employees during the 1990 Training Session held recently at Niatous Lodge. John Cashwell received a special award for his support of PLT. Recognized for their PLT environmental education work were: Hazel Hill, Chuck Hulsey, Don Ouellette, Tom Driscoll, Gail Tunstead and Levi Walton. The four-day training session was held with Project Wild, administered by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. PLT is a state-wide teacher training program sponsored by the Maine Forest Service and forest industry.

34,000 Hours of Conservation Work Completed by Summer MCC Teams

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) wrapped up its summer season when MCC corpsmember Tina Wormel of Lubec returned from the Soviet Union on Sept. 20. Tina was the only East Coast corpsmember to participate in the 29 member U.S. conservation corps team which spent one month working in the Soviet Union.

MCC teams worked for Tim Caverly and AWW Rangers on the Allagash Waterway, Stu Wagner at the LMFB Shackford Head acquisition, Gordon Bell at Camden Hills State Park and Mike Wilusz at Lily Bay State Park. The Bureau of Public Lands had MCC teams build trails for Tom Charles on the Pineland Management Unit and for Ralph Knoll on the Mahoosuc Management Unit. Roger McClellan and Arnold Martin oversaw an MCC team for the Maine Forest Service in Fire Control's Allagash District.

Overall, 133 MCC corpsmembers and team leaders worked 34,000 hours and completed 23 conservation projects to benefit the public.

DOC Employees Contribute to Sebago Water Level Discussion

Several department employees have been involved in the recent discussions over the effects of changing water levels on Sebago Lake. Of particular concern has been the loss of bathing beach and shoreline erosion at Sebago Lake State Park. BPR and MGS staff, including Herb Hartman, Tom Skolfield, Cindy Bastey, Walter Anderson, Joe Kelley and Steve Dickson have been reviewing field evidence and water level trend data in an effort to understand the key factors causing the changes at the park. No conclusions have been reached yet and work is expected to continue over the next several months. MGS has also been asked by the Lakes Commission to consider the effects of water level changes on the entire lake.

BPR Hosts ATV Workshop

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Off-Road Vehicle Division, in cooperation with the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America Motorcycle Industry Council, recently hosted a workshop on ATV safety, trails, and management and enforcement issues. The workshop was held in Waterville and was attended by over 50 participants including national forest and other federal land managers, state trail administrators, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and land managers from major timber companies and utilities. Scott Ramsay and Brian Bronson organized the workshop.

DOC Places Third in Annual State House Softball Tournament

The department's softball team placed third in a double elimination softball tournament played in Augusta during September.

DOC defeated the Secretary of State's office, the A.G.'s office, AMHI, and Taxation on the first day of the two-day event. The following day, DOC lost to DOT (7-1) and Taxation (11-10). DOT won the tournament and Taxation took second. Congratulations to all DOC team members.

Bulletin Correspondents

The *Bulletin* is published every month except July and December. Give your contributions to your bureau correspondent who is: Admin. Services, Judy Andrews; MFS, Tom Wood; BPR, Sheila McDonald; LURC, Gloria LeVasseur; and BPL, Pat Simard.