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Bulletin: Maine Department of Conservation Employee Newsletter, November 1990

Maine Department of Conservation

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NOVEMBER
1990

BULLETIN

Maine Department of Conservation Employee Newsletter

Commissioner's Column

We will miss Bob LaBonta, who died November 5. In the 20 months he served as commissioner, Bob was an ardent advocate and supporter of the department's mission. He had a clear vision of how the department's programs could be strengthened and he provided strong leadership to get the job done. Bob took delight in the accomplishments of DOC employees. He was proud to be a member of our team.

As we head toward the end of 1990, this is a good time for each of us to reflect on the goals achieved this year—and to look ahead at what we still want to accomplish. Fall brings a new cycle of activity as we establish plans for long-range needs, prepare for the legislative session and work on budgets for the next biennium.

Many department programs involve public outreach efforts. Few things are more important than informing the public about our programs. That is the way people know what we are doing and how they are affected. Public outreach provides assistance to help people understand, enjoy and manage resources better. And it gives them the information they need to comply with the laws and rules we administer. Whether it is a brochure outlining recreation opportunities, or instructions on how to follow proper rules and procedures, public outreach is essential to achieving success in our programs.

Current outreach efforts include LURC's public information sessions around the state, Forestry's workshops on the new forestry regulations, Public Lands' meetings on management plans and Geology's publications program. Parks' public information efforts this summer helped its solid waste reduction program succeed. This is a good example of what can be accomplished when a resource management program includes a well-planned public information component. We are pleased Parks and Recreation recently received the first public service award from the Maine Waste Management Agency for their effort to reduce solid waste and increase public awareness.

There is still time to participate in the department's MSECCA campaign if you have not already done so. Thank you for your support.

Ed Meadows

BPR Receives Award from Waste Management Agency

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation recently received an award from the Maine Waste Management Agency for the Bureau's efforts in implementing a carry-in, carry-out policy at all day-use state parks and historic sites last summer.

The "Waste Management Award" was presented by Governor McKernan and Maine Waste Management Agency Director Sherry Huber to Herb Hartman and Steve Curtis. In presenting the award, Governor McKernan cited the bureau for its leadership in addressing Maine's solid waste problems through efforts to promote solid waste reduction and recycling.

Bob LaBonta

Former Commissioner Bob LaBonta died from cancer on November 5.

Bob was appointed commissioner by Governor McKernan in February, 1987 and resigned due to illness in October, 1988.

Representatives of the department and governor's office will attend a memorial service in Waterville on November 8.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Maine Land Preservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter, P.O. Box 338, Topsham, Maine 04086.

Conservation Notebook

BPL's **Tom Morrison and Del Ramey** attended the North Maine Woods coordinating committee meeting. Several of the bureau's major units are located within the North Maine Woods system. Public use within the system continues to increase. The North Maine Woods Association will be adopting a new solid waste management system similar to the one already in use in Maine state parks. Visitors will be asked to adhere to a "carry-in, carry-out" system and to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.

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Scott Ramsay, Supervisor of BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division, was nominated and voted in as chairman for the North East Chapter of the International Association of Snowmobile Program Administrators. The organization is made up of government administrators responsible for snowmobile management including law enforcement, trails, registration and safety training.

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Matt Bley and Steve Oliveri (BPL) attended a Submerged Lands Conference. They also made a brief presentation to the Department of Environmental Protection staff on the Submerged Land Program in an effort to improve cooperation.

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Tim Caverly, Supervisor of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and Allagash Rangers recently hosted a representative from the Department of Natural Resources and Energy in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick official visited the Allagash in order to learn about management of a waterway corridor in preparation for the establishment of a similar project on the Restigouche River.

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Herb Hartman represented Maine in a recent meeting in connection with the Northern Forest Lands Study. The meeting brought together representatives of the states that participated in this study to clarify the objectives of the resource identification project and begin to establish a process for identifying lands most vulnerable to changing use.

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Geologist **Woody Thompson** is teaching an evening course on collecting Maine gems and minerals for the UMA Community Programs Division. Woody provided input to Channel 10 for an upcoming "Made in Maine" program that will spotlight gemstone mining in Maine. This program will be broadcast on Thursday evening, November 15 (right before "Mystery") and repeats the following Saturday. It will follow tourmaline and amethyst gems from their discovery at the Mt. Mica and Sweden mines to the production of finished jewelry.

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Forest Practices Act Training Series Begins

The first of a series of four specialized training sessions for all forest rangers was conducted in Jackman the week of October 22nd. The program consisted of four hours of classroom instruction and four hours of field exercise each day.

MFS Management Division staff (George Bourassa, Peter Lammert, Jim McMullen, Tom Whitworth, Bob Leso, Bob Gammons, Dennis Brennan, Merle Ring, Kathy Nitschke and Walter Gooley) presented various portions of the material and staffed the field exercises so that there was one field instructor for each participant.

The program was developed by staff from the Management and Utilization and Fire Control divisions to bring specialized field forestry skills to the forest rangers to assist them in enforcing the new Forest Practices Act rules on forest regeneration and clearcutting. MFS Director John Cashwell and Fire Control Supervisor Tom Parent opened the session with an introduction and overview of the history and purpose of the Forest Practices Act and the rules.

Although staff organizers Russ Beauchemin, Gary Morse and Leslie Wiles couldn't control the rain and cold temperature, those attending gave the program great reviews. The second session began on November 5th with the final two sections to be held in the spring and early summer of 1991.

Conservation Notebook

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There will be a food sale on November 15 at 11 am on the second floor of the Harlow Building to benefit the 1990 Christmas party. Contact **Donna McLaughlin, Rita Brann, Melissa Boardman or Lillian Hanning** for more information.

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Noreen Golden of Augusta is the new MCC secretary. She will work half-time in this MCC project position until June 8, 1991. If you don't get a "request for proposals" packet by the end of November for both the MCC work projects and SERVE/ Maine and you would like one, give Noreen a call at 289-4931.

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Debbie Duffy is the new BPL eastern region secretary in Old Town filling **Hazel Hill's** position.

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Craig TenBroeck, Maine Rivers Coordinator, has been serving as staff to the Commission to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Piscataqua River Basin Compact.

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Joe Kelley of MGS was an instructor in a Geological Society of America short course titled "Coastal Land Loss."

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Two underground gasoline tanks have been removed from the Kennebag Lake Public Lot in Davis Township with the aid of the Department of Transportation. The tanks had been used for many years by the Kennebag Camp Owners Association.

Reminder

The *Bulletin* will not be published in December. The department's semiannual newsletter, *A Report on Maine Forests Parks and Lands*, will be mailed to all DOC employees.

DOC Employees Exceed 1990 MSECCA Goal

The Maine State Employees Combined Charitable Appeals (MSECCA) campaign ends tomorrow, November 8th. According to John Cashwell, DOC campaign chair, by the end of October the department had exceeded its goal of \$9,046, with 111 employees contributing. Many thanks to all who helped make this a successful campaign.

BPL Completes Eagle Lake Land Trade

Closing has been completed with J.D. Irving Company involving the Eagle Lake Unit. The bureau will now concentrate on completing the trade with S.D. Warren Company to acquire land on Moosehead Lake.

DOC Employees Help Make Blood Drive Successful

The Red Cross collected 112 units of blood during the October Blood Drive held at AMHI. Last October, only 82 units were collected. Twenty of this year's donors were from the DOC, helping to make this the most successful drive ever.

If you wish to participate in the February Blood Drive, call Gale Ross at 289-4900.

DOC Achieves Training Goal

One hundred, sixty-five department employees in the bureaus of Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Public Lands and LURC have now received basic conservation law training.

The completion of the recent Conservation Law Enforcement Academy achieves a goal set for the department three years ago. One hundred, sixty-five department employees in the bureaus of Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Public Lands and LURC have now received basic conservation law training.

The Department of Conservation is responsible for the enforcement of laws and rules relating to fire prevention and control, land use and development, park use and management, snowmobiles, ATVs, general forest protection and others. Thus, law enforcement is one component of our Mission—to protect Maine's natural resources and assist the public in having an enjoyable outdoor experience.

The Vision Statement for the department states: "Professionalism, excellence, and team work characterize the Department...They are the foundation for professional growth and personal satisfaction." While our employees come to the department with expertise, we must provide the tools and training to increase our overall effectiveness in protecting Maine's natural resources. As a result, we have witnessed an increase in professionalism, excellence and team work. In addition, employees work closely together to share and benefit from each other's knowledge and expertise.

The purpose of the Academy has been to prepare employees who have law enforcement responsibilities to carry out their jobs more effectively and in a more satisfying manner.

The Academy provides more tools and techniques, opportunities for professional growth and development, enhances job satisfaction, and ultimately enables the department to fulfill its Mission more successfully. It also helps employees achieve personal and professional goals.

The department is committed to expanding professional development opportunities in the future.