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Bulletin: Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees, June 1991

Maine Department of Conservation

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June
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BULLETIN

Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Commissioner's Column

Field season is off to a fast start with the unusually warm weather this year. The Fire Control Division has already successfully handled a large number of early season fires, including the unprecedented event of having all five helicopters fighting different fires at the same time. The warm weather has meant increased use at parks early this year too. We welcome all of our seasonal employees, volunteers and corpsmembers who have joined our team.

We wish all employees a good summer. In field season we are most visible to the thousands of people who benefit from our efforts to provide leadership in the management of natural resources and quality service to the public.

As this was being prepared, the Appropriations Committee was beginning final discussions on the FY 92/93 budget. The budget for our department was thoroughly reviewed by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which will work with the Appropriations Committee on any modifications that may be made.

Many changes are likely before a final budget is approved by the full Legislature. In keeping with our pledge to keep you informed, a summary of the major changes affecting the department and employees will be provided to all employees once the budget is enacted.

The U.S. Senate has released draft legislation authorizing the Northern Forest Lands Council to implement the recommendations of the Governors' Task Force on the Northern Forest Lands Study. The purpose is to develop new strategies for the long-term protection and management of forest lands in the region. Hearings on the legislation will be held in July. Should this legislation be enacted, the program will be one of the most important activities the department will be involved with over the next four years pertaining to the use, management and protection of forest lands.

The Bureau of Forestry is working on plans for appropriate recognition of its 100 years of professional service, while looking ahead to continued leadership in forestry matters in the future. The Town of Greenville has planned "Forest Heritage Days" on August 23-25 to help recognize Forestry's 100th anniversary. Also on August 25, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation will recognize the 25th anniversary of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway with a ceremony at Churchill Dam.

Events such as these provide important opportunities to demonstrate the leadership role the department plays in the management of natural resources. They provide chances to involve the public in our programs so they can see firsthand the contributions the department makes to the state. They also provide the opportunity to demonstrate the professionalism, excellence and teamwork being used to successfully achieve the Mission and Vision for the department. While we continue to adjust to the uncertainties of the state budget, it is important to maintain our focus on these goals.

Ed Meadows

Conservation Notebook

Dave Struble appears in a 28 minute video presentation entitled, *Are New England's Forests Healthy?* The tape was produced by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation with USDA funding in connection with the New England Forest Health Monitoring Project. •• **Edwina French**, former SERVE/Maine volunteer from Surry, has been hired as a BPL seasonal recreation ranger, working at the Duck Lake, Rocky Lake, and Donnell Pond units. •• BPL's seasonal technicians are working in the regions doing timber marking, recreation site construction, herbaceous seeding, and boundary maintenance. They are: **Richard Dionne** and **Jeff Williams** - Eastern Region; **Mike Wahl**, **Steve Bodkin** and **Michael Cooper** - Western Region; and **Chad Abbott**, **Sean O'Connor** and **Joe Beaulieu** - Northern Region. •• **Tim Hall**, assistant regional supervisor for the BPR, delivered the keynote address at the Mid-Atlantic Lifesaving Symposium in Ocean City, Maryland in May. Tim spoke on lifesaving in the 1990's. The symposium was attended by 250 lifesaving administrators and lifeguards from the mid-Atlantic states. •• **Steve Spencer**, **Steve Swatling**, and **Brad Holden** spent a day with representatives from CMP at the Flagstaff Lake area to assess present and potential recreational use. •• BPL's Western Region again hosted 4 days of intensive MCC Leadership Training at Bigelow Lodge. •• BPL's **Steve Swatling**, **Ralph Knoll**, **Myron Foss**, **Marc Albert**, **Jeff Bartley**, and **Pete Smith** have received MFS fire suppression training. •• **James Sherburne** has been re-nominated to serve on the Land Use Regulation Commission. **Paul Fichtner**, whose term expires in July, will not seek reappointment. •• **Tom Cieslinski**, BPR's chief planner and president of the National Association of State Recreation Planners, recently presided over the association's annual meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Tom delivered the opening address at the session and reviewed the association's accomplishments in 1990. •• The 2nd draft of BPL's Donnell Pond Management Plan was presented to the Donnell Pond Advisory Committee in June. The plan will be presented at a public meeting in July. •• **Jim Ecker**, BPL Eastern Region forester, gave a Superior Performance Award to a contractor for exceptional timber harvesting work on the Seboeis Unit. •• BPL has received 27 bids on 4 separate timber sales. Analysis of the bids is not complete, but the prices offered by the bidding logging contractors are slightly higher than expected. Two road contracts for BPL's Duck Lake Unit have been awarded. Construction is expected to begin this summer. •• **Debra Duffy**, BPL secretary in Old Town, has resigned. •• BPL has completed three new campsites on Seboeis Lake and rehabilitated two campsites.

BULLETIN to be Published in July

The *BULLETIN* will be published in July this year and distributed with paychecks on July 23. The department's newsletter, *A Report on Maine Forests Parks and Lands*, will be published in September.

NSF Supports CREST Project

The National Science Foundation will support the Maine Geological Survey's proposal for a major three-year project titled "CREST," Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers in Maine. Woody Thompson authored the proposal for MGS, together with educators from the Department of Education, DEP, and the University of Maine at Farmington. CREST will provide much needed curriculum materials in earth science for all Maine schools, as well as ten internships for teachers during each of the next three summers. The CREST project will be featured in the September issue of *Forests Parks and Lands*.

MFS Assists New Brunswick DNR

Maine Forest Service forest fire specialists, two helicopters and pilots, and fire fighting equipment were sent to New Brunswick, Canada in early June in response to a request for assistance from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources made under the terms of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact.

Responding to the call were pilots Otis Gray and John Knight, and rangers Bruce Small, Les Thornton and Mike Ricci. The rangers served in fire management positions and are members of Maine's Fire Overhead Team.

NFLC Legislation Released

Draft legislation authorizing continuation of the Northern Forest Lands Council for four more years has been released. The Northern Forest Lands Act of 1991 promotes forest land conservation and rural economic development in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. The legislation directs the council to develop and implement land conservation strategies to encourage protection of the working forest over the four-state region.

Authorization and interim funding for the council was provided last year following completion in 1989 of the Northern Forest Lands Study. Maine is conducting an interagency GIS resource inventory project led by Bob Marvinney with the interim funds. The project is designed to locate land with a high priority for application of the strategies developed in the Northern Forest Lands Study. A limited term, federally funded DOC forest planner position will be filled to coordinate Northern Forest Lands work projects and activities in Maine.

Commissioner Ed Meadows, Maine Forest Products Council Executive Director Edward I. Johnston, and natural resource consultant Jerry Bley are Maine's council representatives. Charles A. Levesque is the executive director of the council with headquarters in Concord, New Hampshire. To receive council mailings, write to the NFLC, 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, N.H. 03301.

Aquifer Mapping Begins

The Maine Geological Survey Hydrogeology Division has begun its significant aquifer mapping field program. The area encompasses two regions including the extensive sand plain at Brownville Junction, and an excellent example of an esker system (known, of course, as the Horseback) south of Greenfield. This system terminates at the Silsby Plain in Aurora, an outstanding example of a glaciomarine delta. This summer's field work will be very informative as this will be the first time any of these areas have received this much investigation. Also, as part of the field crew, Alan Lane, an earth science teacher from Enfield, will serve as an intern with the Maine Geological Survey's CREST program. As part of the internship, Alan will utilize the hydrogeological studies to develop school lesson plans.

BPR Receives New LFMF Parcels

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will hold title to two parcels of land recently approved for purchase by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

One parcel includes 980 feet of natural, high quality beach and 35 acres of wooded backland on Jordan Bay of Sebago Lake. The property was purchased for \$1,250,000. The bureau will lease the property to the Town of Raymond and work with the town to manage recreation use.

The board also approved the purchase, for \$20,000, of a 20-acre inholding in the recently acquired Androscoggin River property in Turner and Leeds.

The Bureau of Public Lands and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation hold title to more than three-quarters of the nearly 47,000 acres purchased so far by the Land for Maine's Future Fund.

MCC Summer Projects Begin

Twenty-three Maine Conservation Corps summer projects start today. Team leaders and assistant leaders have trained for 4 days at the Bigelow Preserve and for 3 days at the worksites. Tomorrow, all 120 corpsmembers travel to the University of Maine at Augusta for a day of orientation and training.

On Wednesday, the teams will be busy at work, building trails, bridges, and campsites and other conservation and outdoor recreation work to benefit the public. Projects with DOC agencies include sites with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation at Camden Hills State Park and Bradbury Mountain State Park and on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The Bureau of Public Lands has projects on the Mahoosuc and Little Squaw Management Units and the Bigelow Preserve.

Tree Farming's 50th Observed

The 50th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System was recently observed at the Pine Tree State Arboretum. Governor McKernan dedicated the arboretum as a Certified Tree Farm Demonstration Area and assisted a class of fourth graders from South China Elementary School plant red, white and blue spruce seedlings. The governor noted that the colors were especially appropriate since MFS Director John Cashwell has not returned from Desert Shield military duty. The South China school property is a Tree Farm and the children participate in Project Learning Tree Program activities according to Don Ouellette, Project Learning Tree Coordinator. Don's PLT efforts were recognized during the ceremonies, and a tree was planted in the memory of former MFS forester Robert Dineen. Commissioner Meadows was among the speakers. Tree Farm Committee member Ancyl Thurston and acting MFS Director Tom Doak helped arrange the event.

BPR Holds Lifeguard Academy

BPR staff spent a busy day June 12 conducting and participating in the bureau's annual Lifeguard Academy at Sebago Lake State Park. Attended by more than 40 lifeguards with park managers and assistant regional supervisors providing the training and testing, the academy included CPR training, instruction regarding rescue boards and tubes, and search and rescue procedures.

Steve Curtis, director of the Operations and Maintenance Division, spoke to all attendees about the effects of proposed budget reductions on the lifeguard program. The academy was directed by John Titus with the assistance of Phil Mayo, Bob Hunt, Jay McIntosh, Bill Elliot, Gordeen Noble, Julie Flanagan, John Polackwich, Tim Hall, Scott Woodruff, Greg Wilfert, Jeff Callahan, Katie Davis and Ben Kreiton.