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

Maine Department of Conservation

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September
1991

BULLETIN

Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Commissioner's Column

This month's column is shorter than usual so that more space is available to report on important activities taking place in the department and the programs in which we participate. The successes the department achieves are built by each of you working each day on one project at a time. Together these efforts accomplish important achievements, the results of which are appreciated by thousands of Maine citizens and visitors to our state every year.

With Labor Day already behind us, now is the time to reflect on what we did—and did not—accomplish over the summer and to look ahead to what needs to be accomplished this fall. As you each set goals for the coming months and make plans to “get everything done” before winter, be sure to enjoy what you are doing at the same time.

Recently, Hartley La Duke announced he will be leaving the department this fall after completing annual leave time he has accrued. Hartley's contributions to the department are much appreciated by those who worked with him during his tenure.

I am pleased to report that Will Harris will begin immediately as director of administrative services. Will has the knowledge and experience to do an excellent job in this important function. He knows the people and programs in the department and his expertise will be particularly useful as we work toward achieving the department Vision while adjusting to budget reductions. A search for a new personnel manager will begin shortly.

We are also pleased to welcome back all of our department employees who served with the National Guard during Operation Desert Storm. My thanks to all who filled in for them during a busy year while they were away in service to our country.

Ed Meadows

7 % Pay Increase

Your August 28 paycheck contained a seven percent increase as provided for under the collective bargaining agreement. That check contained the increase for the weeks ending on August 9 and 16. The rest of the raise due from July 1st through August 3rd will be paid at a later date. The state and MSEA have negotiated a tentative agreement for funding the 7% increase (shutdown days, furlough days, etc.). MSEA members were voting on that agreement as this issue of the *Bulletin* was being prepared.

Fall Foliage Reports Begin Today

The department has again been asked by the Maine Publicity Bureau and the Office of Tourism to gather and report information about fall foliage conditions. Fire Control Division employees in each MFS weather zone report weekly observations of coloration and leaf drop to the DOC Public Information Section in Augusta. A state-wide report is prepared and disseminated throughout the country over the Maine Publicity Bureau's "Foliage Hotline," (outside the state, 1-800-533-9595; in state, 289-6070). The 1991 fall foliage season and attendant economic activity is especially important. DOC employees are contributing to its success.

Conservation Notes

Don Mansius joined the department on August 26 as the Maine coordinator for the Northern Forest Lands Council. Don is a licensed forester and comes to the department following several years of work in West Africa as a CARE International project manager. He has worked in West and Central Africa as a Peace Corps forester and for the U.S. Forest Service in the northern Rockies. •• **Amy Frescoln** has resigned from the Land Use Regulation Commission to accept a position as a community planner with the Washington County Regional Planning Commission in Machias. •• **Lynne Picardi** of LURC has been promoted to an environmental specialist III position. •• **Sara Brusila** has accepted an environmental specialist II position with LURC. Sara has worked with the Manomet Bird Observatory, the Maine Departments of Agriculture and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. •• **Gordon Moore** has accepted the part time non-point source pollution environmental specialist II position in the Land Use Regulation Commission Presque Isle office. •• **David Boulter, Bill Galbraith, Fred Todd and Caroline Eliot** of the Land Use Regulation Commission visited the Adirondack Park Agency in Ray Brook, New York in August to meet with agency staff to discuss land use planning issues of common interest. In May, staff from the Adirondack Park Agency traveled to Augusta to meet with LURC staff. •• **Caroline Eliot**, a senior planner with the Land Use Regulation Commission, conducted a workshop in September about LURC at the Island Institute's annual meeting. •• **Joe Kelley** will present a Maine Geological Survey exhibit at Maine Audubon's "Sea Fair" in South Portland on Sept. 15. The Sea Fair is part of a large program of activities scheduled for the annual Coast Week during Sept. 14-21. Contact **Steve Dickson** at MGS for additional information. •• MGS Hydrogeology Division completed single-channel seismic field activities for the aquifer mapping program. While other field work such as mapping will continue into the fall, employees were able to gather valuable data despite deep budget cuts to the program. To complete the work for this year's field area, MGS will overlap efforts into next year's field area, thus extending field work for one map area to two seasons rather than one season as in previous years. •• Proposal forms for 1992 MCC projects are being distributed. If you are interested in a project contact **Ken Spalding** at 289-4931 to get a copy of the proposal form or to discuss what you need to consider to develop a successful project for 1992. •• **Dave Gerkens**, a SERVE/Maine summer intern for the Maine Conservation Corps, has returned to Stockton State College in NJ. Dave received college credit for his summer volunteer experience and will be graduating with a degree in environmental studies in December. This was his second year as an MCC intern. •• **Helene Marsh** has returned to Providence College after her summer volunteer internship with the Bureau of Parks & Recreation. Helene worked with **Tom Cieslinski** and **Cindy Bastey** on the Coastal Beach Inventory Project. •• The Bureau of Public Lands will hold a public meeting in Newcastle tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the final draft management plan for the

Conservation Notes continued on back

Conservation Notes continued

Dodge Point property acquired by the LFMF program.

•• BPL will hold two public hearings (Ellsworth/Portland) in October on proposed rules for Maine's 1.5 million acres of submerged lands. •• Hurricane Bob did little damage on BPL's management units. Washed out culverts in the Bigelow Unit required emergency repairs so that visitors caught behind the washouts could drive out. •• The Chain of Ponds dam has been completed. BPL staff provided construction oversight in this cooperative venture between DOC, DEP, Maine Emergency Management Agency, and BPI. •• BPL timber sale bids in all 3 regions were opened in August. Stumpage prices are down slightly and bidder interest remains high. •• Fourteen members of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation field staff will attend a one-week course, "Methods of Instruction," to be held at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, September 30 - October 4. The course, cooperatively planned by **John Titus** of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and **Leslie Wiles** of the Maine Forest Service, will teach participants how to prepare written materials and oral presentations for teaching, training, or instructing others. •• **Tim Hall**, formerly assistant regional supervisor in BPR's southern region, has recently been named as the new regional supervisor for the bureau's central region. Based in Thomaston, the central region includes 25 parks and historic sites. Tim began his career with the bureau as a lifeguard at Reid State Park in 1977. He has also worked as a park manager and lifeguard coordinator. •• BPR's Operations and Maintenance Division will be holding its annual fall managers' meeting on September 17th and 18th in Augusta. The meeting's program will include a review of the summer season and maintenance management and training reports, as well as plans for winter projects. •• BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division is busy preparing for its annual workshop for snowmobile club members. The workshop, cosponsored with the Maine Snowmobile Association, will be held on September 14 and is designed to provide information to clubs about snowmobile trail grants, reimbursements, use permits, and safety. **Scott Ramsay**, **Jim Mangin**, **Sue Roderick**, and **Pat Gordon** from the Off-Road Vehicle Division will attend the workshop, where they will speak to club members, provide information, and distribute trail signs. •• **Duane Leavitt** has been selected by the MGS to coordinate the Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers Program (CREST). Duane has been an educator for 22 years, including seven as chairperson of Leavitt High School's science department. •• Eagle Island State Historic Site manager **Dave Chaney** is quoted in an article about the island written by **Marshall Wiebe** for the current edition of *Maine Boats and Harbors* magazine. •• In April, the MCC placed two-year veteran corpsmember **Jonathan Sleeper** in the California Conservation Corps' Backcountry Trails Project. Jon and his 16 person crew finish their backcountry program on September 24. Their experiences included a month of camping on a Pacific Ocean beach and building trail through old growth redwoods in mud and pouring rain; a month of building river access trail in dry heat and amongst rattlesnakes and poison oak; and three months in the Stanislaus National Forest backcountry constructing and reconstructing trails. Jon wrote an article, "The Art of Rock Rolling," that was published in the CCC's newsletter, *Backcountry News*, and he has decided to stay on with the CCC. Jon's next project is salmon restoration along the northern California coast. •• MFS and BPL will participate in the 1991 Fryeburg Fair, September 28 - October 6.

Employee Assistance Program Services Resumed

The Bureau of Human Resources has resumed Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services. Professional EAP staff will provide EAP assessment and referral services that are voluntary, confidential, and free for employees, family members, and retirees. Contact the EAP specialist listed for your area.

- Aroostook and Washington counties and upper Penobscot County (Lincoln/Howland north)- **George Newhall, 941-9170**
- Hancock, Waldo and Somerset counties and southern Penobscot County (greater Bangor)- **Hank Cleveland, 778-3721**
- Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties and western Kennebec County (Belgrade, Fayette, Gardiner, Litchfield, Manchester, Monmouth, Mt. Vernon, Oakland, Readfield, Vienna, Wayne and Winthrop)- **Carolyn Bloom, in Lewiston/Auburn, 784-6582; outside Lewiston/Auburn, 823-8859 (toll free)**
- Knox and Lincoln counties and central/eastern Kennebec County (Albion, Augusta, Benton, Chelsea, China, Clinton, Farmingdale, Hallowell, Pittston, Randolph, Sidney, Vassalboro, Waterville, Windsor and Winslow)- **Ed Renaud, 621-1565**
- Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York counties- **Val Morin, 773-9894**

MFS, AWW Celebrate Birthdays

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway was held August 25th at Churchill Dam. Nearly 100 people were in attendance, including many former Bureau of Parks and Recreation employees who had either worked in the Allagash or were involved in early planning, development, and management. Speakers included Commissioner Meadows, Bureau of Parks and Recreation Director Herb Hartman and former bureau director Larry Stuart. The day also included music, sharing of stories and memories, renewal of old friendships, beautiful weather, and good food. Allagash Wilderness Waterway staff worked hard in preparation for the event and should be commended for its success. The Allagash anniversary was featured in the weekend edition of the Bangor Daily News.

Forest Heritage Days in Greenville on August 23, 24 and 25 honored the 100th anniversary of the Maine Forest Service. The three-day event was organized by the Forest Heritage Days Committee and attracted visitors to Greenville from throughout the state, including many former MFS employees. Activities included special meals, forestry exhibits, story telling, old films and demonstrations of forest fire equipment including helicopters. The Bangor Daily News published a front page photo story on the event. Acting MFS Director Tom Doak used this public information opportunity to present a comprehensive look at the MFS resource management and protection program. Among the MFS employees who played key roles in the celebration were Gary Morse, Harry Doughty, and Russ Beauchemin.

Bulletin Correspondents

Give contributions of information to your bureau correspondent who is: Admin. Services, **Judy Andrews**; MFS, **Tom Wood**; BPR, **Sheila McDonald**; LURC, **Gloria LeVasseur**; BPL, **Pat Simard**; and MGS, **Woody Thompson**.