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## Bulletin: Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees, April 1992

Maine Department of Conservation

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**April  
1992**

# BULLETIN



## Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

### Commissioner's Column

With the legislature recently adjourned, we can now update you on a number of items discussed at recent employee meetings. Some of the actions that were taken by the legislature that affect the department are outlined on this page as "Legislative Highlights."

A summary of budget actions affecting all state employees was distributed to department management points last week. These changes will become effective in FY 93. Many of the changes, such as the shortened work week and the across the board budget reductions, will require specific plans for proper implementation. We will keep you informed as we receive information about these plans.

Information was provided to management points to assist you in planning furlough days in order to maintain smooth and effective operations while scheduling time off in the most satisfactory manner possible.

At the employee meetings and in last month's Commissioner's Column, I described the budget actions relating to the so-called transfer of \$519,000 between the Departments of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Conservation. As you know, the funds were actually transferred to the general fund, not to DOC. The FY 93 budget included a provision that the general fund pay the \$519,000 to IF&W in FY 93. That provision was changed, however, to again having DOC make the payment from available general fund appropriations by June 1, 1994. We will again seek to have this situation corrected when we prepare the biennial budget for FY 94/95.

While these budget actions will require each of us to adjust to the changes they create, I'm sure you join me in looking forward to a productive and enjoyable field season.

**Ed Meadows**

### Legislative Highlights

#### FY 93 DOC Budget Proposal Modified

In January, the department's proposal to meet DOC's budget reduction target was explained in a letter that was sent to all employees. The legislature accepted most of the proposals that were described in the letter. The legislature did not accept any reduction to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation FY 93 budget. This means two full-time and 16 seasonal positions will not be abolished and three positions, that had been cut in FY 92, will be reinstated. In addition, the Community Parks and Recreation Program, which had been transferred from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Economic and Community Development in 1987, will be returned to the bureau. As a result, John Picher, supervisor of outdoor recreation, and Mike Gallagher, community recreation specialist, will be returning to the DOC.

#### Restructuring Bills Fail

The legislature's Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government heard a number of bills that were based on the work of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring. The committee also heard LD 2384, *An Act to Restructure State Government*, and discussed other proposals to restructure several state agencies. Among proposals with potential effects on DOC were:

- LD 2330, *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring*. The bill proposed that the nongame Species Program at Fish & Wildlife, the Critical Areas Program at State Planning, and the Natural Heritage Program at Economic & Community Development be moved to DOC;
- A separate proposal to combine the personnel functions of all natural resource agencies within DOC; and
- LD 2384, which proposed to reorganize some functions of Fish & Wildlife, Marine Resources, Solid Waste Management, Environmental Protection, and DOC into a Department of Conservation and Resource Use.

None of these proposals were adopted by the committee. A proposed senate amendment to LD 2384 was discussed before the legislature. The amendment, like the original bill, created a new Bureau of Lands (replacing LURC) within DOC. This bureau would have been responsible for LURC jurisdiction, the Natural Resources Protection Act, site location laws, shoreland zoning, critical areas, heritage, and solid waste siting. The amendment did not pass, and natural resource programs remain as currently organized.

#### State Park Projects Included in November Bond Issue

Selected Bureau of Parks and Recreation capital improvement projects relating to health and safety have been identified for inclusion in an \$8 million November bond issue recently authorized by the legislature. Specific projects relating to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's facilities that will be part of the bond issue include: installation of water systems to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; installation of a sewage treatment system at Cobscook Bay State Park; and access improvements for persons with disabilities.

#### Seasonal Employees Grandfathered

The legislature has enacted LD 2008, *An Act to Restore Maine State Retirement Credit to Certain Part-Time, Seasonal, Intermittent or Legislative Employees*. This bill directed the retirement board to permit part-time and seasonal state employees, who were employed during January 1, 1989 and June 30, 1991, to accumulate one year of creditable service for each year in which the employee is employed 1000 hours or more.

The bill restores the method of calculating creditable service towards retirement for part-time and seasonal employees to what it had been prior to the retirement board's July 1, 1991 rule change. Persons employed after June 30, 1991 will have service credited according to the new rule.



## Conservation Notes

**Joe Kelley**, Maine Geological Survey, will be teaching a course on Coastal Land Loss to be held at USM on April 10-11, 1992. Other instructors include noted coastal geologists Orrin Pilkey from Duke University and Robert Norton from the Texas Geological Survey. •• **Walter Anderson** and other staff from MGS presented talks and poster sessions at the Geological Society of America. Their topics included radioactive waste disposal, GIS, the Survey's gravel aquifer program, geologic mapping, and the CREST earth science education project. •• The Maine Geological Survey has just published the second edition of the popular "Collector's Guide to Maine Mineral Localities." The new edition contains much additional information and color photos of mineral specimens and localities. •• **Lynne Picardi** has resigned from her position as an environmental specialist III with the Land Use Regulation Commission, to accept a similar position with the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Oil and Hazardous Materials. •• Land Use Regulation Commission Enforcement Investigator **Kim Lynch** was one of the speakers at the annual conference of the New England Regional Council of Forest Engineers at the University of Maine at Orono. •• **David Mercier**, Land Use Regulation Commission resource administrator, represented the commission at a forum in Machias to discuss the commission's role in siting waste disposal facilities in the unorganized territories. •• **Steve Levesque** of the Land Use Regulation Commission Planning Division, spoke at a conference addressing the regulation of mining wastes in Maine held at the University of Maine at Orono. •• **Charles Corliss**, Land Use Regulation Commission enforcement investigator, gave a presentation during a University of Maine workshop for research scientists and technicians regarding commission standards and permit requirements as they may affect university research or other development activities in the unorganized territories. •• Chief Pilot **John Knight** held an open house in March to display two recently acquired H-model Huey helicopters. The aircraft are provided by the federal Excess Property Program, which makes aircraft and other specialized equipment available on free loan to states. •• Spring grass and brush fire season has begun in areas of southern and coastal Maine according to **Jim Downey**. Over 40 fires had been reported as of March 25th. •• **Tom Morrison** and **Ed Meadows** attended the North Maine Woods annual meeting to discuss the 1992 season. •• **Matthew Bley**, submerged lands coordinator, attended seminars on changes on the Portland waterfront. The Submerged Lands Program continues to work with Portland Harbor officials to maintain a working waterfront with commercial marine industries and public access. •• BPL staff met with Al Johnson, director of the Pine Tree State Arboretum to review the arboretum's annual work plan and the revised 99 year lease between the bureau and the arboretum. •• Forest Ranger **Bill Getchell** recently assisted the town of Houlton acquire an ambulance through the federal Excess Property Program administered by the Maine Forest Service. For the past 5 months, Bill has been screening equipment for the MFS Fire Control Division and rural communities. The program has benefited many towns. It also allows the Forest Service access to the equipment when needed for fire and other emergencies. •• **Tom Morrison** of BPL, attended the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CRFU) meeting at the University of Maine. BPL is a CRFU cooperator and Tom is a member of the board of directors. •• BPL staff met in Ashland with the Round Pond Management Unit Advisory Committee to review the unit's draft man-

## Conservation Notes continued

agement plan. •• Bureau of Parks and Recreation staff have spent a busy season delivering outreach programs: **Andy Haskell** and **Mick Rogers** from Lake St. George State Park have both visited schools in the local area, and Andy was recognized for his presentation to Mount View Junior High School on the subject of winter survival; members of the "lunch bunch" at Great Salt Bay Community School have seen Reid State Park staff **Dalton Kirk** and **John Cooke** and their outreach program; **John Titus** has presented programs to schools in Minot and Brunswick and **Patty Bailey** has travelled to Cornville to deliver the bureau's outreach program; **Tim Hall** recently spoke to the Rockland Kiwanis Club, presenting the bureau's program on state parks and historic sites; **John Titus** delivered a similar program to the South Parish Congregational Church Women's Group in Augusta; **Mike Leighton** spoke on the history of Fort Knox and its structural problems to the Brewer Historical Society. •• More than 300 kids and their parents visited the Mid Coast Children's Museum "Spring Ahead" event in Rockland on March 15. Among the exhibits and activities available for them was **Gordon Bell** and a special version of the bureau's outreach activity "Who Dirtied the Water?" •• **Patty Bailey** recently completed a grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency to provide funding for teacher training and materials for the "Explore the Shore" program, which she has developed for use at coastal state parks. •• **Jarvis Johnson** has received significant help in repairing and maintaining BPR's Central Region vehicle and equipment fleet from the Mid-Coast School of Technology in Rockland. In recognition of this assistance, the school was presented with a special Conservation Service Award. •• **John Titus** has been appointed to the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. •• BPR and DOC staff conducted a computer training course geared to use of personal computers in park regional offices. The two-day training session included presentations and tutoring by **Dick Arbour**, **Jim Rea**, **Scott Woodruff**, **Tim Hall**, **John Titus** and **Lin Gosselin**. •• BPR's **Steve Curtis**, recently attended the Recreation Supervisors Conference.

## MCC Update

MCC spring projects are starting up. Team Leaders Scott Thompson (Aroostook State Park) and Rich Bouchard (Swan Island) started April 6. Their teams will join them on April 13. A third team at Good-Will Hinckley will also begin work on April 13. The Frye Mt. project, led by Linwood Curtis, started March 2.

The MCC has submitted a grant proposal to The Commission on National and Community Service. The grant would enable the MCC to field 3 year-round conservation teams. During the school year the teams would spend half their time going to college and half time working on public and private non-profit lands. In the summer they would live and work in backcountry areas. A decision on the grant is expected in June.

## ATV Workshops Held

More than 50 people have attended BPR-sponsored workshops, "The Future of ATVs in Maine." The workshops were organized to promote ATV clubs, encourage trail development, foster good relationships with landowners and other recreationalists, and highlight safe operation of ATVs. Brian Bronson, working with staff from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Cooperative Extension and the Maine ATV Association, organized the workshops and gave a presentation on organizing clubs.