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Bulletin: Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees, May 1992

Maine Department of Conservation

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Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Thank You !

Finally, spring is here, the Legislature has adjourned, and for the first time in what seems like a long time, we have a budget that may sustain us for the next fiscal year. Before the field season really gets underway, we think everyone should give themselves a well deserved pat on the back. Those of us working for state government have just experienced one of the most difficult periods in recent memory. Despite the difficult political and economic environment, the Department of Conservation was successful during the recent legislative session. Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy and Natural Resources publicly commended us for our professionalism, teamwork, problem solving approach, and dedication. Our budget was adopted without further reductions and the proposed reduction for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation was restored. All bureaus and divisions actively participated in our legislative program providing information and expertise on a wide range of natural resources policy issues. This department's management team realizes that we could not have accomplished what we have so far without the dedication and support of our employees. We want to thank each of you for your motivation and professionalism. We hope your level of commitment will continue throughout the field season and the coming year.

While you are doing your part, the management team pledges to do our part to support our programs and employees. We are operating in a challenging period of time. Change seems to be occurring at an increasing rate. Reduced resources and increased demands will accelerate the need for creative solutions and realistic adjustments. We are convinced that the employees in this agency will undertake these challenges and continue the tradition of excellence that has become the trademark of the Department of Conservation. To that end, we are encouraging you to help in identifying ways to improve our services. We are looking for new and innovative ways to improve our operations. If you have an idea, talk to your supervisor. In this way, you will be taking an active part in keeping the Department of Conservation a leader in natural resource management and a stimulating place to work.

We look forward to seeing you over the coming summer and fall.

Sue Bell, Deputy Commissioner

Will Harris, Director, Administrative Services

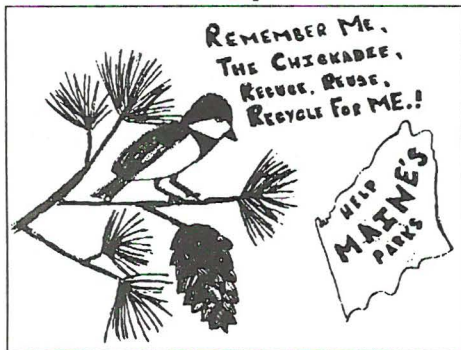
Conservation Notes

Cobscook Bay State Park Manager **Stuart Wagner** received a certificate of appreciation from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for his and his staff's efforts to protect a merlin nest in the park's campground. •• Two SERVE/Maine volunteers will be joining the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) staff this summer. **Yvonne Felix**, an alumni of the California Conservation Corps' Back Country Trails Program, will be volunteering as an Assistant Team Leader on an MCC residential project for 9 weeks this summer. **Karen Schatten** of the State University of New York at Binghamton, a SERVE/Maine - Student Conservation Association volunteer, will be volunteering as the environmental education intern, coordinating the MCC environmental awareness program. •• LURC staff discussed goals and objectives during a day long meeting at the Pine Tree State Arboretum. •• Ranger Pilot **Otis Gray** of Greenville has been assigned to the Fire Control Division's Southern Region for the spring fire season. Otis will fly a helicopter from Bolton Hill. •• **Fred Todd**, LURC Planning Division manager, spoke about the Comprehensive

Land Use Plan revision at the Eastern Maine Forest Forum in Bangor. •• **Charles Corliss** and **Gordon Moore** of LURC's Enforcement Division presented forest management practices training to representatives of Great Northern Paper Company in Millinocket. •• **Marie Drew**, clerk steno III with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation in the Augusta office will be retiring this month. The bureau will host a coffee for Marie for all Augusta-based departmental staff on Monday, May 11 at 10:00 a.m. •• **Steve Curtis**, Director of BPR's Operations and Maintenance Division, will receive a masters degree in public administration from the University of Maine at Orono in ceremonies this month. Steve received a certificate of commendation from BPR and DOC staff at the spring managers meeting for earning his masters degree. •• **Tom Cieslinski** recently attended the National Association of State Recreation Planners annual meeting in Alabama. •• **Kim Lynch** conducted a training session in Dover Foxcroft for representatives of International Paper Company regarding road construction techniques and LURC

regulations. •• **Woody Thompson** gave a talk on mineral collecting for the Environmental Awareness Day program held by Winthrop-Monmouth area Girl Scouts. •• The Geological Survey's CREST education project broadcast the first of several programs for earth science teachers on April 28. **Joe Kelley** gave a lecture on the geology of Maine over the UMA interactive TV network, which allows teachers to call in with questions from statewide receiving sites. •• Forest Ranger **Bill Getchell** is the Fire Control Division's federal excess property screener. He will be stationed at Bolton Hill in the Fire Support Branch. •• According to MFS Radio Operator **Ed Jones**, fewer than 100 fires had been reported at the end of April. Nearly 300 fires had been recorded at the same time in 1991. Arson and escaped debris burns are the leading causes notes Forest Ranger **Jim Downey**. •• Urban Forester **Beth Reed** is preparing for Arbor Week, May 17- 23. •• **Tom Weddle**, MGS, and **Andrea LaPointe** and **Ellen Farese**, LURC, participated in Maine Audubon Society sponsored Earth Day activities on April 25.

Kids Help BPR



Laura Anne Beaudoin from Sea Road School in Kennebunk created this poster for BPR's poster contest and won first place in the grade 3-5 age group.

The winners of the 1992 Bureau of Parks and Recreation Poster Contest to promote reduction of solid waste and recycling have been selected from among more than 600 entries from across the state. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners were selected in grade K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 age groups. In addition, the judges awarded ten Honorable Mentions. Awards and prizes will be presented by Governor McKernan during a May 13 State House ceremony.

BPR Holds Spring Meeting

The BPR's Operations and Maintenance Division held its annual spring meeting at the Bog Brook National Guard Facility in Gilead last week.

Organized by the division's training committee, the meeting included a week-long series of presentations and discussions geared to policies, procedures, and information for park management staff during the upcoming season. Managers and regional supervisors participated in sessions conducted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance Division staff members Steve Curtis, Ron Hunt, John Titus, Tim Hall, Scott Woodruff, and Patty Bailey made presentations and led discussions. Several additional staff members also attended portions of the meeting to provide information and lead discussions including: Herb Hartman, Tom Cieslinski, and Sheila McDonald from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation; Sue Bell, Ken Spalding, Marshall Wiebe, and Libbey Seigars from the department's Planning and Program Services Division; and departmental Administrative Services' personnel Will Harris, Debbie Davis, Karen Michaud, Barbara Kimball, MaryAnn Sargent, Barbara McGee, Debbie Vielleux, Lillian Hanning, Diane Johnson, and Don Norman.

Secretaries Meet

The department's regional secretaries attended a meeting held by DOC Personnel Unit staff that covered furlough and shut-down days, employee start-up forms, payroll requirements, workers comp, and related subjects. Accounting Unit representatives also provided information.

Attending were: Sue Caverly, Sandra Cleaves, Nancy Dodge, Sally Doyle, Lin Gosselin, Diane Huntly, Nancy Marsters and Pam Tibbetts, (BPR); Betty Barry, Sheila Elliot, Francis Guthrie, and Jeannine Plourde(MFS); Alice Bickford, Bea Spencer, and Sue Starrett, (BPL).

MCC Projects Set

Seven Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) 1992 summer projects will be on land managed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Four projects will be in state parks and two on property acquired with Land for Maine's Future money.

Park Manager Bruce Farnham of Mt. Blue will have a team clear vistas on Mt. Blue; clear, blaze and build water bars on the Mt. Blue trail; build a new trail near Webb Lake and upgrade a trail at Center Hill. Bob Hunt, Manager at Rangeley Lakes, will have his team prepare a site and cut the timber for two Adirondack style group shelters as well as clear and build bog bridges on a trail previously built by the MCC.

Managers Dan Bell and Andy Hutchinson will share an MCC team. The team will build a new summit trail at Bradbury Mt. and rock waterbars and a rock walkway at Wolfe Neck Woods.

Regional Supervisor Ken Wiley has spearheaded two projects on LMF properties. One team will mark boundaries on the Androscoggin River parcel. Another team will work on the Bureau of Public Lands' Little Squaw Management Unit and will rehabilitate and relocate trails on Mt. Kineo and renovate a campsite.

Grafton Notch State Park trails will be hardened under the direction of Park Manager Mark Wright by an Outward Bound sponsored team.

ADA Rules Studied

Dick Skinner and George Hannum, from BPR's Boating Facilities Division, and DOC Assistant to the Commissioner Cathy Ward have been meeting with staff from the Bureau of General Services, State Fire Marshall's Office, Bureau of Rehabilitation and Bureau of Human Resources to outline procedures for boat access site review and design implementation in light of the recently effective Americans with Disabilities Act.

Raymond Thompson

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation is mourning the death of one of its long-time employees, Raymond Thompson of Lubec. Raymond began working for the Bureau in 1965 as manager of Quoddy Head State Park and continued in that position until this year. Raymond was well-known for his dedication to the park and its visitors. His presence there will be missed by the many people who have appreciated Raymond's commitment to the park over the years and the care he took in managing it.

Terrance Trudell

Terry Trudell, who retired from the Maine Forest Service in 1988, died recently at the age of 53. Terry joined the Forest Service in 1963 and was Rangeley District Ranger when he retired.

Federal Withholding Tables Changed

Employees may be seeing a change in their net pay due to the new federal income tax withholding tables. This change does not decrease 1992 tax liability. It only changes how the tax is collected by the I.R.S. Therefore, employees who usually have large refunds will see their refunds shrink. Employees who usually have small refunds may end up owing taxes, and employees who usually owe tax could owe even more- and may be subject to a financial penalty.

Employees who wish to maintain their current amount of withholding must file a new W-4 form and claim the same number of allowances as before, but with an entry on line 6 - "Additional amount, if any, you want deducted from each paycheck." The Accounting Unit will assist employees who wish to change their W-4 forms.

VRA is Now CFM

Central Fleet Management (CFM) is located on Columbia Street at the Bureau of Public Improvements' Service Garage. Columbia runs parallel to State Street and the garage is directly behind the Department of Human Services.

CFM hours are 7:30 to 4:30, M-F. Call 287-7113 for reservations; dial 287-7012 or 800/300-7013 for maintenance questions and approvals. Address interoffice correspondence to CFM, Sta. #9.

Workshops Planned

- 26th Annual Wood Drying Workshop, Skowhegan, May 19-21.
- 5th Annual Conference and Workshop for Licensed Professional Foresters in Maine, Orono, May 14.