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

Maine Department of Conservation

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JULY
1992

BULLETIN



Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Commissioner's Column

In late June, department representatives joined 200 other senior managers from throughout state government at a meeting hosted by Governor McKernan. The theme of the meeting was "The Challenge of Managing Well with Less." The meeting was held to express appreciation for the efforts of state employees and to recognize the achievements that they have made in the last three years, despite the difficult times the state has faced. Another goal was to identify ways to improve the efficiency of state government and the delivery of service.

In his remarks the Governor said the last three years had been the most difficult period he has seen during his career in public service. He said that Maine had experienced the worst recession since the Depression, requiring six budget revisions in two years. The Governor indicated that hopeful signs are now appearing that the economy is improving, but slowly. The Governor gave credit to state employees for getting the job done despite the difficulties. He said he felt that state workers haven't received enough recognition and appreciation for their efforts. He recognized that morale was a problem and said he is interested in ways to improve it. He said the state faces the challenge of restoring public confidence in government.

Small interdepartmental groups then met to discuss concerns common to all departments and to share information about the ways agencies have overcome these obstacles. The groups also discussed accomplishments agencies have achieved despite the cuts. Some of the highlights of the discussion were:

- Employees have risen to the challenge and take pride in having made it through the tough times. State employees have performed professionally and have gotten the job done in spite of the adversity;
- Improvements in technology have been made; and
- Innovative methods have been adopted.

It was particularly interesting to hear that several agencies commented during these sessions on the achievements of the Department of Conservation. While we have seen the results of our work, it is gratifying to hear that others in state government recognize the achievements our department has made as a result of the efforts of our employees.

In the afternoon each department met to discuss ways to proceed with the opportunities identified in the previous sessions. During our meeting, the Governor joined us in a candid discussion of changes we believe would help improve state government operations. Some of the ideas discussed included increasing communications with employees, increasing involvement of agencies and employees in decisions affecting programs, providing more flexibility in operating procedures and finding new ways to increase collaboration between departments.

The Governor indicated interdepartmental task force groups would be appointed to pursue conference recommendations. We will keep you informed on that effort.

I'm sure I speak for all department representatives who attended the meeting when I say how proud I was to hear the positive comments about the department's achievements and to hear that we are recognized as leaders within state government. This is further confirmation of something we have known: DOC employees are a top quality group fully prepared and capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

The Governor indicated he wants to focus on quality and excellence in government in the next two years. That should fit in well in DOC since excellence has long been a hallmark of our programs.

I am taking this opportunity to express my thanks to each of you for your part in providing quality service to the public and for making our programs so successful.

Ed Meadows

Employees Receive Public Service Awards

Fifteen Department of Conservation employees were recognized and presented with service pins during the annual career public service award ceremony on July 10, 1992 at the Augusta Civic Center. The Governor and Commissioner Meadows were on hand to express their appreciation and thanks to all for many years of dedicated service to the people of Maine and the Department of Conservation.

35 Years

Lawrence Oberlander,
Parks and Recreation

30 Years

Robert Gammons,
Forestry

25 Years

Richard Beedy,
Parks and Recreation

Everett Cram,
Forestry

Richard Dearborn,
Forestry

Sally Doyle,
Parks and Recreation

Donald Hicks,
Forestry

Leigh Hoar, Jr.,
Public Lands

Edward Holman,
Forestry

Ben Kreiton,
Parks and Recreation

James McMullen,
Forestry

Gary Morse,
Forestry

John Picher,
Parks and Recreation

Marshall Wiebe,
Planning and Program Services

Bennett Wilson, Jr.,
Geology

BPR Events Scheduled

• **August 8** The newly restored library at Eagle Island State Historic Site will be dedicated.

• **August 15** There will be an Open House at Holbrook Island. The island has been open to the public as part of Holbrook Island Sanctuary in Brooksville.

People in the News

• **Hazel Light** has joined Administrative Services as an accountant I. Hazel comes to DOC from Public Safety with many years of accounting and MFASIS experience. She will handle park income and Forestry's federal accounts.

• **Mike Leighton** has been appointed assistant regional supervisor for the Central Region of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Mike has over 16 seasons' experience with the bureau, and comes to the Central Region after 10 years as manager of Fort Knox State Historic Site.

• **Doug Reusch**, a science teacher from Bangor, has started work at the Maine Geological Survey as year two coordinator for the National Science Foundation/MGS CREST (Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers) program. The CREST program is designed to improve earth science teaching in Maine's secondary schools. The year one coordinator, Duane Leavitt, has finished the CREST curriculum guidebook and will return to teaching this fall.

DOC News in Brief

▲ Maine Forest Service employees who worked to control the "Rip" Forest Fire near Telos Lake demonstrated "competence, organization and professionalism" according to **David M. Carlisle**, president of Prentiss and Carlisle Management Company. **Thomas A. Wildman**, manager of woodlands/Pinkham Lumber, Great Northern Paper, Inc., said that "the dedication and professional manner with which the Maine Forest Service personnel carried out their duties (during the fire) is truly commendable." The comments appeared in letters the two men sent to MFS Director **John Cashwell** commending the Forest Service for the successful fire control effort.

▲ **John Picher** and **Mike Gallagher** have rejoined the staff of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation after an absence of nearly five years. Since their move from BPR in 1987, John and Mike have administered their community parks and recreation program from the DECD. Legislative action last session transferred the program back to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation effective July 1, 1992. In addition to their administration of federal grants to municipalities from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, John and Mike will be working on the new National Recreation Trails Fund Act and will continue their technical assistance regarding community recreation facilities.

▲ The first weeks of the summer season brought large yellow objects to parking areas in Maine's state parks and historic sites — school busses filled with students tired of classrooms and anxious for field trips. At Moose Point State Park, manager **Shirley Clark** reports that tide pool studies were conducted with local students and biologists from the Department of Marine Resources. School visits were reported at many other areas, including Birch Point Beach, Fort Edgecomb, Colonial Pemaquid, Fort Knox, Wolfe's Neck Woods, and Camden Hills.

▲ Twenty-six Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) 1992 summer projects began on June 29th. Teams from around the state came together June 30th on the campus of the University of Maine at Augusta for orientation to the MCC, team building exercises and environmental awareness activities. MCC team leaders **Mike Cooper, Rich Bouchard, Tom Bradbury, Dan Kinney** and **Mike Ouellette** led the team building exercises. The 130 corpsmembers gained environmental awareness through sessions led by **Karen Schatten**, MCC environmental education coordinator and team leaders **Mark Hutchinson, Paul Desaulniers** and former team leader **Mike Warren**.

▲ **Fred Todd** of the Land Use Regulation Commission Planning and Zoning Division, spoke at a meeting of the Northern Forest Alliance at Cobbosseecontee Lake.

▲ Inmates from several correctional facilities are helping to prepare state parks and historic sites for the summer season. Teams from the pre-release center in Hallowell have worked at Reid and Damariscotta Lake State Parks according to Park Managers **Dalton Kirk** and **Jay McIntosh**.

▲ Park managers and maintenance supervisors in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Central Region have been "tilting at windmills" lately, working to remove stereotypes and stigmas associated with people with disabilities. The program, led by the Bureau of Human Resources and the Bureau of Rehabilitation, was part of the region's management meeting.

▲ According to **Bruce Farnham**, manager at Mt. Blue State Park, the park campground has initiated a recycling program. The program is modeled after the successful pilot recycling project at Camden Hills State Park started last year.

▲ The annual training program for the Allagash Wilderness Waterway rangers was held recently at the Churchill Dam headquarters. Staff from a number of state and federal natural resource agencies made presentations and participated in the meeting. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spoke on mercury in fish, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife participated in discussions on animal control, as well as procedures and communications in the waterway, and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service spoke on revitalizing shorelines.

▲ The current issue of *Maine Fish and Wildlife* magazine includes a list of boat launching sites that are sponsored/assisted by the Departments of Conservation (BPR) and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The list can be removed from the magazine and folded into a handy pocket guide. Additional copies are available.

▲ The Harlow Building will soon be rewired with new voice/ data telephone jacks. Forestry offices will be the first to be rewired starting late this summer. The project allows upgrading of our computer system, increases speed, and makes it easier to move PCs. There will be new wiring closets on the third and second floors and a data communications room on the first floor. The actual rewiring will take about a week and inconvenience will be minimized. If you have questions about this project, please ask **Dick Arbour** at Administrative Services.

▲ The Maine Conservation Corps is recruiting three, year-round team leaders. Team leaders must have a four-year degree in the natural resources field, supervisory experience in a backcountry setting and the ability to supervise and motivate young people. The team leaders will work in a backcountry residential site during the summer and at either Unity College or the University of Southern Maine during the school year. Housing and meals will be provided. For more information contact **Ken Spalding** at 289-4931.

▲ Department of Conservation employees are invited to submit original scientific natural history research and general interest feature articles, field notes, and news items for publication in the *Maine Naturalist*. Contact the Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station, P. O. Box 82, Steuben, Maine 04680 for more information, or call **Dick Dearborn** at the Maine Forest Service.