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

Maine Department of Conservation

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August  
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# BULLETIN



Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

## Commissioner's Column

Department programs have often been in the media spotlight lately. Recently WLBZ-TV of Bangor broadcast their entire evening news, live from Fort Knox State Historic Site in Prospect. Although TV news programs often feature live reports from remote locations, this was WLBZ-TV's first remote broadcast of an entire news program. The broadcast originated from three different locations in the fort. The fort's history, an interview with Assistant Regional Supervisor Mike Leighton and information on how viewers can help support much-needed renovations at the facility were featured.

Not only was this production exciting for our department, but the news director indicated how important it was to the station for business purposes, audience interest and for news crew team building. This is another example of the many ways in which DOC programs and facilities are valuable to Maine people, businesses and communities.

We received extensive media coverage of the many-and major-fires that occurred earlier this spring and summer. Specific efforts made to provide information to the media led to feature stories on the outstanding work by the fire control team and their cooperators to combat the fires and to identify their causes.

Other examples of recent favorable stories include:

- Front page headlines of the rescue of 21 children at Popham Beach by BPR lifeguards;
- A headline article (Park Ranger Saves the Day) by a daily outdoor columnist about a park ranger's good deed to assist a stranded traveler;
- Front page feature stories, which relied on information from Forestry and LURC, on factors affecting Maine's forests.

Of equal interest is the large amount of air time TV stations are devoting to DOC public service announcements (PSAs). Much of the play has come during evening prime time. One PSA narrated by a forest ranger presents an effective visual fire prevention message involving a family, with state and local fire control units responding to a fire emergency. Another PSA is narrated by a park ranger who

urges park visitors to reduce the amount of disposable packaging brought to parks, and to recycle at home.

Both PSAs support DOC cost savings efforts by using education to help reduce fire suppression costs and the cost of solid waste disposal.

These messages are important for the public to hear. They show how our department is working to save tax dollars while still getting the job done. The PSAs show citizens how we are working smarter, and they help to directly involve the public in DOC programs.

Favorable news stories show that good performance by department employees is recognized and valued. The examples cited are a credit to those involved and is representative of the good work accomplished everyday by DOC employees in every bureau and program.

You never know when good performance will show up in the news. When it does, it helps build the support we need.

**Ed Meadows**

## 1994-95 Budget Process Begins

Over the following months you will be hearing and reading a lot about the state's budget for the upcoming biennium. In fact, we have begun work on the budget that will go into effect next July 1. Those of you who have been here for the past two years know that budget preparation can be a time of uncertainty and anxiety, not to mention a lot of work. Often during these times there are many conflicting news stories, much political posturing and numerous rumors, all of which serve to increase anxiety.

The department is very concerned about the budgeting process and the affect that it can have on all employees. Because all DOC employees have a need to know the course being set through this process, the department will share with you as much information as possible. This commitment is an extension of what DOC has been doing for the past two years.

We will be using the BULLETIN as one means of communicating budget information, so keep watch for further details.

## BPR Lifeguards Rescue Children

Popham Beach State Park lifeguard staff recently rescued 21 children. Dave Helgersen, Stephen Wilson, and Jeff Selser pulled the panicking children to safety after they walked out to a sand bar and became stranded as the tide rose. The incident, which began around noon, resulted in nine children being taken to Mid-Coast Hospital in Bath, but only two were treated. Kudos to these lifeguards, who responded to the situation in a very professional manner and did an outstanding job in preventing what might have resulted in a tragedy.

## Legislators Visit Public Lands

State representatives Paul Jacques (Waterville) and Mike Michaud (East Millinocket) recently visited BPL's Nahmakanta Management Unit. Tom Morrison, BPL's director, and Sue Bell, DOC deputy commissioner, accompanied the legislators who reviewed BPL's management policy, concerns about public access and future directions for public land management.

Representative Jacques is the House Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Representative Michaud is a member of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

## Admiral Peary's Library Dedicated

The recently restored library at Eagle Island State Historic Site in Harpswell was dedicated on August 8. The library is part of the historic summer home of Admiral Robert E. Peary. Eagle Island Manager Dave Chaney and his staff, Maurice Giasson and Jean Dorrington, were involved in planning for the dedication along with Tom Skolfield, Nancy Marsters, Scott Woodruff and Sheila McDonald. Several other BPR and DOC staff members attended the ceremony along with members of the Peary family.

A grant to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation from the National Geographic Society supplemented state funds used to restore the library. Eagle Island, in Casco Bay, is visited by approximately 14,000 people annually.



## **BPR Completes Lake George Land Purchase**

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has recently completed the purchase of property on Lake George in Skowhegan and Caanan with assistance from the Land for Maine's Future Fund and a parks bond issue. The bureau is working with the towns of Skowhegan and Caanan to plan management and development of the parcel. John Picher, Ken Wiley, Steve Curtis and Herb Hartman have been involved in the planning work.

## **BPL Participates in CFRU**

BPL Director Tom Morrison recently attended the annual meeting of the executive board of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) at the University of Maine where the budget for the coming year was discussed. Slow economic conditions and forest products markets are having an affect on the CFRU budget.

The forest research work of the CFRU is funded voluntarily by forest landowners, including the Bureau of Public Lands, and others interested in advancing Maine forestry. Research projects are approved by the CFRU board and carried out by scientists associated with the College of Forestry.

According to BPL's Tom Charles, CFRU's best known research work includes studies of the efficacy of herbicides for the release of softwoods, and nutrient cycling in harvested stands. CFRU is currently investigating the relationship between softwood site quality and growth response to management activity.

## **Weather Service Proposal Hearing Held**

Staff from the Bureau of Public Lands participated with representatives from the National Weather Service in a public information meeting in mid-July. About sixty people turned out for the meeting to discuss issues related to the Weather Service's proposal to locate a weather radar and forecasting office facility on public land at the Pineland Center in Gray.

The meeting was attended by nearby residents and local legislators. Concerns were expressed about potential health effects of radar emissions and matters relating to the public process of such proposals. The bureau will continue to work with the Weather Service, local residents, town officials and legislators to address their concerns.

## **Holbrook Island Open House Planned**

Staff at Holbrook Island Sanctuary, including Phil Farr and Bill Cleaves, have been planning an open house at Holbrook Island scheduled for August 15th. Patty Bailey will be on hand that day to lead a walk around the island. Townspeople from the Brooksville and Castine areas have been invited. Staff from nearby Lamoine State Park and Fort Knox State Historic Site will also be on hand that day to help.

## **BPL Prepares for Bear Hunting Season**

People who plan to bait bears on public lands during the 1992 hunting season are being advised that a BPL permit is required. According to Joe Wiley, IF&W/BPL wildlife biologist, the rules adopted by the bureau last year are intended to improve safety and are similar to bear baiting rules that apply to most privately-owned lands. The bureau issued 121 bear baiting permits on twenty-five individual parcels of land in '92. The 1992 bear season begins on August 31.

## **Article Features BPL Managed Islands**

BPL managed coastal islands and the Maine Island Trail are highlighted in an article by Dave Getchell in the August/September issue of *Maine Boats and Harbors* magazine.

"Low Impact Cruising" is an easy reading chronicle of a 110 mile west-to-east traverse of Penobscot Bay by kayak from Spruce Head to Stonington. Getchell, who has assisted the department in a number of roles, is an effective advocate of coastal island conservation who entertains and educates his readers.

"Low Impact Cruising" is beautifully illustrated with Peter Ralston's photos and first appeared in *Backpacker* magazine.

## **New Kennebec River Boat Site Opened**

Maine's newest boat launching facility was opened on August 1 at Morse Cove in Phippsburg by BPR's Boat Facilities Division.

The site was built on land donated to the state by Frederick S. Morse in memory of his father, James L. Morse.

The site features an all-tide concrete ramp, a boarding and landing float system and wheelchair accessible toilets. Parking for 32 vehicle-boat trailer rigs is provided. BPR will maintain the facility.

## **Conservation Notes**

- Land Use Regulation Commission enforcement staff recently participated in a one-day field training session with Bureau of Public Lands and Maine Forest Service staff at the Bigelow Preserve.

- **Fred Todd and Ellen Farese** of the Land Use Regulation Commission Planning Division and **Marc Loiselle** of the Maine Geological Survey, traveled to Durham, New Hampshire to learn how the University of New Hampshire mapped fresh water wetlands and to consider the applicability of that mapping technique for mapping wetlands in the commission's jurisdiction.

- **Bill Galbraith**, supervisor of the Land Use Regulation Commission Enforcement Division, attended the annual meeting of the Schoodic Lake Camp Owners Association in Brownville Junction and participated in a panel discussion of development issues around the lake.

- Staff from the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Penobscot River Corridor held a Rangers' meeting in July that included participation by fire control rangers. Topics discussed included fire suppression, communications, search and rescue cooperation, and the use of fire towers along the waterway.

## **Personnel News**

- **Beth Lewis** has been hired by the Maine Geological Survey as a geology technician. Beth is a recent graduate of the College of William and Mary in Virginia. She will be primarily responsible for overseeing seismic survey field activities on the significant aquifer mapping project, and compiling that information on the Geographic Information System at the survey.

- **Andrea Lapointe** has resigned as Land Use Regulation Commission education coordinator to return to the Department of Environmental Protection where she has accepted a position with the Bureau of Air Quality Control.

- **Mark Wight** has recently been selected to fill the year-round ranger's job at Lake St. George State Park. Mark has been the manager at Grafton Notch State Park for several seasons.