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

Maine Department of Conservation

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Commissioner's Column

Last month John Cashwell announced he will leave Conservation in mid-October to become president of the Seven Islands Land Company. This is a tremendous opportunity for John and I'm sure you all join me in wishing him great success. We will certainly miss him here—he has been instrumental in many major accomplishments, both for the Bureau of Forestry and for the department as a whole. Many of these achievements will be of long lasting benefit to Maine's natural resources.

In his new position, John will have an opportunity to bring his vision and energy to the application of sound long-term conservation and silvicultural principles and, to directly influence on-the-ground forest management on a major forest ownership. It is gratifying to note that Maine's landowners recognize the caliber of the department's leaders and value the partnerships we have created for the stewardship of Maine forest lands. John's appointment continues the strong tradition of cooperation between the state and Maine's forest owners, which has existed since the formation of the Maine Forestry District in 1909. We certainly look forward to working with John in his new capacity and know that he will be a strong ally of the department. A new forestry director will be named shortly.

DOC Meets With BDN

Senior department managers recently held a two-hour meeting with the editorial board and senior writers of the *Bangor Daily News*. The goal of the meeting was to outline for Maine's largest circulation newspaper the functions of the department and the challenges our programs face. The presentation was well received and is part of our ongoing effort to increase understanding and support of the department's programs.

FY 94/95 Budget Process

By mid-September, departments will receive further information on the next steps they will be asked to take in the FY 94/95 budget process. As we currently know, these steps include:

- Submission of our "current services" budget by September 1. This is the full amount we would need to operate if funds were available to reflect expected All Other and Capital cost increases and to fully fund employee salaries and benefits based on a normal work schedule. You may have seen news stories that state revenues will not be sufficient to fund a budget at this level.
- Preparation of a "level funding" budget by September 18. This budget would require all departments to operate with the same budget in FY 94 and FY 95 as we have in FY 93.
- Contingency ideas must be developed on where further cuts of up to ten percent (or more) would be taken if required in the event revenues are not sufficient to meet the level funding costs. At this time, we have not been asked to prepare actual budgets on these levels, only to develop ideas. It will be a few weeks before we will know what specific reduction level will be requested.

We ask you to bear with us until we have additional information on how DOC programs and employees will be affected.

Your suggestions on cost savings, or ways to increase the efficiency of our department, are welcome.

Ed Meadows

Forest Ranger Gary Cook Aids Camper

Gary Cook of Brownville, recently assisted with the treatment and evacuation of a camper who was severely burned when a stove exploded at West Chairback Pond.

Gary hiked to the small mountain pond in Katahdin Iron Works and helped treat the injured camper. Gary also provided communications with emergency personnel from Piscataquis County, the Air National Guard and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The victim, who suffered burns over 75 percent of his body, was flown to a burn unit in Boston.

BPR Employees Receive Awards

Leland Griffin, manager of Lamoine State Park, and Phil Farr, manager of Holbrook Island Sanctuary State Park, have received "Outstanding Supervisor" awards from the Hancock/Penobscot Counties Training and Development Corporation and the Private Industry Council. Lee and Phil received the awards because of the work they have done at their parks this summer with Summer Youth Employment Training Program (S.Y.E.T.P.) crews.

The "Outstanding Worksite" award went to Lamoine State Park and park staff members John Petros, John Smith, Lou Stanley, Janet Myster, and Gary Craig all received recognition for their excellent work with the Summer Youth Employment Training Program crew.

The Training and Development Corporation, in conjunction with the Summer Youth Employment Training Program, also presented an Outstanding Supervisor Award to James T. (Todd) Mountain of Peaks-Kenny State Park. Todd supervised the S.Y.E.T.P. crew on a daily basis. Like Leland Griffin at Lamoine and Phil Farr at Holbrook Island, Todd not only earned the crews respect and cooperation, but accomplished a significant amount of work for the park. At Peaks-Kenny, the S.Y.E.T.P. crew helped the maintenance crew clean the park more thoroughly and completed a major improvement project of brush cutting and selective tree thinning along the park's entrance road.

Todd has worked at Peaks-Kenny State Park since 1988 and plans to leave state service to move to Alaska in the spring.

MFS Personnel Called To Idaho Fires

Maine firefighters helped combat several fires in Idaho in late summer including one that burned 257,000 acres. MFS personnel who traveled to Idaho included: Mark Berube, John Knight, Gary Davis, Alan Johnston, Pete Umphrey, Russ Landry, Arnold Martin, and Mike Ricci.

Geology Field Trip For Teachers Offered

Doug Reusch, MGS coordinator for the CREST earth science education program, has volunteered to organize a special field trip for Maine high school science teachers on the weekend of October 10-11. Doug will lead the group from Quebec City to Farmington, Maine, examining world-class geologic features that illustrate the history of the Appalachian Mountains. Teachers who are interested in participating in this trip should contact Doug as soon as possible at 287-4108.

MCC News

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) marked the end of its summer program by gathering at Maranacook Community School in Readfield for the MCC's Recognition Day on Thursday, August 20. One-hundred corpsmembers from 26 work projects around the state attended the annual event.

The MCC rewarded ten corpsmembers for their hard work and dedication to their projects by sending them on a three-day outdoor challenge program run by the University's Maine Bound program.

Two College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) teams began this new MCC program on August 24. One six-person team led by Rich Bouchard started their Unity College based program with orientation and an outdoor challenge experience with other Unity freshman. A five-person team led by Wes Crain spent the week working on trails in Baxter State Park before moving to the University of Southern Maine to start their combined public service and educational experience.

Conservation Notes

- State Representative John Marsh, Sue Bell, Tom Morrison, Ralph Knoll, and Joe Wiley recently visited the Bigelow Preserve and other areas managed by the Bureau of Public Lands.

- The Bigelow Preserve was featured in the August edition of *OUTSIDE* magazine in an article entitled, "SAVED BY THE BACKCOUNTRY."

- Steve Levesque of the Land Use Regulation Commission Planning Division, participated in a meeting of the Lakeville Camp Owners Association where he discussed current Land Use Regulation Commission issues.

Conservation Notes continued

- Park staff, friends and volunteers helped to stage the annual Knox Silver Tea at Montpelier State Historic Site in July. Speakers at the event included Parks Director Herb Hartman. The successful event also included refreshments and free tours of the Knox mansion replica.

- Fred Todd, Land Use Regulation Commission Planning Division Manager, traveled to Cliff Island in Casco Bay to discuss the possibility of that island seceding from Portland and coming under the Commission's jurisdiction as a plantation.

- Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site became the site of the 40th annual Olde Bristol Days this summer. Park staff and local organizers reported the event as a great success, with attractions that included parades, craft exhibitions and boat races.

- There will be a public meeting to review the final draft Management Plan for the Round Pond Unit, September 15 at 7 p.m. in the Ashland High School cafeteria, in Ashland.

- Park staff at Colonial Pemaquid reported a visit from Senator Edward Kennedy recently. According to Park Receptionist Valerie Fossett, the vacationing Senator Kennedy and his family toured Fort William Henry and the museum while in the area.

- When he's not busy as a maintenance mechanic supervisor for Central Regional Parks, Jarvis Johnson demonstrates his safe driving skills as a substitute school bus driver for SAD 28. So it was no surprise to central region staff when Jarvis drove off with a first place award in the Midcoast Road-E-O in April, or when he took second place in the State Road-E-O in August. These competitions test drivers' safety and driving skills.

- Great weather at the end of the summer season drew large crowds to state park beaches. Unfortunately, many parks are short staffed at this time because seasons end, schools start and employees must use up accumulated leave. To help out, administrative staff could be found at state parks and historic sites. Mike Leighton, assistant regional

Conservation Notes continued

supervisor for the Central Region, parked cars at Popham Beach State Park, while Tim Hall, regional supervisor, worked as a lifeguard at Reid State Park. Park visitors were also assisted by BPR staff Sally Doyle and Judie Bridges.

- The Land Use Regulation Commission has approved a ten-year renewal to the St. John River Resource Protection Plan.

Personnel News

- **Mark Martin**, appointed BPL forest technician, Western Region.

- **Sean O'Connor**, appointed BPL forest technician, Northern Region.

- **Jay Hall**, appointed BPL forest technician, Eastern Region.

- **David Gerkens** has been hired to coordinate the new College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) program.

- **David Allender** has been hired as a senior planner in LURC's Planning Division.

Transfers

- **Gordon Moore**, part-time environmental specialist II with the Land Use Regulation Commission Enforcement Division in Presque Isle, has transferred to the full-time environmental specialist II Enforcement Division position in Greenville.

- **Ron Wright**, forest ranger, recently transferred to Topsfield after working many years in the Alna area.

- **Tim Post** has filled the forest ranger II position in Greenville. Tim has worked in the Arnold Trail District for the past 6 months.

Bulletin

Correspondents

Give contributions of information for the *Bulletin* to your bureau correspondent: Admin. Services/ Planning and Program Services, Judy Andrews; MFS, Jean Colfer and Jim Downey; BPR, Sheila McDonald; LURC, Gloria LeVasseur; BPL, Pat Simard; and MGS, Woody Thompson.