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

Maine Department of Conservation

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October
1992

BULLETIN



Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

Commissioner's Column

Each day brings new headlines about jobs and the future of the economy, both in the U.S. and here in Maine. This attention gives each of us an opportunity to help others appreciate the importance of natural resources to this state's economy and our future.

Much attention is focused on education, training, the service sector and high tech industries as being keys to the future. These are highly important—but the actual foundation which supports our state economy remains the natural resource-based industries. It is estimated these industries together provide approximately fifty percent of total state economic activity. Forest products industries, tourism/recreation businesses, and industries that depend on mineral and water resources, plus agriculture and commercial fishing provide a substantial portion of the income Maine people earn and the revenues which support state government.

DOC programs play a direct and crucial role in every resource-based industry. Every program in this department in some way supports these industries with direct service, investment, or information needs. I'm sure you can think of several ways which your program assists and supports these businesses. Imagine then the total contribution of all programs in the department as a whole.

Despite the emergence of new industries, natural resource-based businesses and industries will continue to dominate Maine's value of product. Thus, it is clear that for Maine to have a strong economy in the future there must be adequate support for these traditional industries. That means adequate support is needed for state government's natural resource programs.

We will be developing further information to help decision-makers and the public more fully appreciate these connections.

Ed Meadows

Gordeen Noble and Phil Farr

Named State Park Managers of the Year

Gordeen Noble and Phil Farr have been named "1992 Maine State Park Managers of the Year," according to Herb Hartman, director of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Hartman, who presented the award during the annual fall meeting of state park managers, said the two career park employees were selected from among the managers of all state parks and historic sites administered by the department to share the 1992 award on the basis of professionalism, initiative and self-improvement.

"Faced with diminishing resources at their disposal, aging facilities and greater public demand, state park and historic site managers have an increasingly difficult task. All managers have been resourceful in keeping their facilities accessible, safe and attractive under these difficult circumstances; however, the dedication, hard work and creativity that Gordeen and Phil have demonstrated this year make them the deserving recipients of the 1992 award," Hartman said.

Gordeen is the manager of Range Ponds State Park in Poland; Phil manages Holbrook Island Sanctuary in Brooksville.

Noble began her park management career with the bureau in 1982 and has worked at Laudholm Farm and Sebago Lake State Park. In 1988, she was promoted to her first park manager position at Ferry Beach State Park in Saco. In 1990, she became manager at Range Ponds.

Noble graduated from Windham High School in 1972, attended the University of Maine at Farmington, and is currently enrolled at the University of Southern Maine (USM). She is a graduate of the Conservation Officer Training Academy. She and her husband Charles reside in Gorham and have two children, Chelsie, a freshman at USM, and Chip, a senior at Gorham High School.

Range Ponds State Park provides swimming and other day-use recreational opportunities in the Lewiston-Auburn area. Approximately 90,000 people visit the 750 acre park each year.

Phil Farr began his career with the Department of Conservation in the Bureau of Forestry, transferring to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation in 1977. He worked at Popham Beach and Cobscook Bay State Parks. In 1979, he began work at Holbrook Island as a ranger and was promoted to manager in 1987.

Farr received an "Outstanding Supervisor Award" from the Hancock/Penobscot Counties Training and Development Corporation and the Private Industry Council in recognition of the work he did with Summer Youth Employment Training Program crews at Holbrook Island this year.

A native of Blue Hill, Farr graduated from Brooksville High School in 1956. He and his wife Patricia reside in Brooksville. Farr is a former Hancock County deputy sheriff and Brooksville fire chief. He is a member of the Brooksville Planning Board.

Holbrook Island Sanctuary is on the east side of Penobscot Bay south of Bucksport. This scenic natural area of upland forest, intertidal zone and meadow provides opportunities for hiking and the study and appreciation of nature.

The sanctuary includes mile-long Holbrook Island in Castine and a 1,200 acre parcel on the mainland in Brooksville adjacent to the island. Approximately 15,000 people visit the sanctuary each year.

Budget Update

As this *BULLETIN* went to print, the department was scheduled for its first meeting with the Budget Office on the reductions needed to operate in FY 94 and FY 95 at our current FY 93 funding level.

Because departments must absorb increased costs in order to stay at the FY 93 level, we are required to make significant cuts in programs to meet that level. These cuts will be discussed at the meetings as well as any additional cuts which may be required.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Kim Pierce to Coordinate '92 MSECCA

Kim Pierce of Administrative Services is DOC's '92 MSECCA coordinator. "MSECCA is an effective way for each of us to help provide services to those who rely on them. Because we can accomplish so much by working together, your support for MSECCA is very important, especially this year when the need is so great," Commissioner Meadows said.

Jim Lord and Ralph Wilkinson Cited

Jim Lord and Ralph Wilkinson have received 1992 Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation Outstanding Service Awards. In presenting the awards, Herb Hartman, BPR's director said:

"Jim Lord is a motivated, self-starter whose initiative and efficiency help the bureau accomplish essential maintenance tasks at great cost savings. Jim's can-do approach is especially important at this time when money for essential maintenance is practically non-existent, and while the need to maintain park equipment has never been more important.

"Ralph Wilkinson, whose television presence in public service announcements has contributed to the success of the bureau's reduce, reuse and recycle program, has distinguished himself as a caring and dedicated park ranger. Ralph has shown his personal commitment to the safety of state park visitors by becoming an emergency medical technician and a first aid/CPR instructor. Ralph's concern for people was demonstrated this year when on the way home from work he climbed into a burning car, rolled it away from a building and took charge in putting out the fire."

Fort McClary Featured

Fort McClary State Historic Site in Kittery Point was showcased during a broadcast of "Celebrating Maine" on WGME-TV's "First News" in late September.

Anchored by Felicia Knight, the half-hour news show included on-site interviews with Fort McClary Manager Tom Collins. The program was broadcast live from the fort's scenic 27-acre location on the Piscataqua River.

This is not the first time Tom and Fort McClary have been in the spotlight. The fort has been featured on WCSH-TV's "People, Places and Things" and will appear in the new film "Bed and Breakfast" starring Roger Moore.

Ken Spalding Receives Sierra Club Award

MCC Director Ken Spalding has received the Maine Group of the Sierra Club 1992 Maine Environmentalist in Government Service Award.

The award was presented in recognition of Ken's dedication and commitment to the Maine Conservation Corps.

Fire Overhead Training Conducted

The Maine Forest Service Fire Control Division recently conducted a simulated fire exercise at the Penobscot Conservation Club in Brewer. Forest fire control professionals from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Brunswick, and the U.S. Forest Service were familiarized with the Incident Command Organizational System during the exercise. Dick Mullavey, Executive Director of the Northeast Forest Fire Compact, and Ted Shina from Diamond Occidental Woodlands, also attended.

Employees Attend Methods Course

Department employees put a lot of hard work into producing and giving 20-minute presentations on subjects such as the "18 Situations that Shout Watchout on a Fire," and "Safety in a State Park" during the Methods of Instruction Course they attended recently at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Attending were: Jay Bernard, John Blackstone, Jeff Currier, Tim Post, Ritchie Hafford and Scott Bates, MFS; Andy Hutchinson, Julie Flanagan, Tom Coon, Kim Lynch, Stu Wagner, Ralph Wilkinson, John Cooke and Leland Griffin, BPR.

CCCM Teams Working

The College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) has begun work at locations near Unity College and the University of Southern Maine (USM) in Gorham. The USM team is working on the Bureau of Public Lands' Pineland Management Unit in New Gloucester and at USM's Recycling Center in Portland. The USM team will be working at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park and Bradbury Mountain State Park later this month.

The Unity College CCCM team is working at Tanglewood 4-H Camp in Lincolnville, the Unity Recycling Center and BPL's Dodge Point Management Unit in Newcastle.

Conservation Notes

MGS geologists **Woodrow B. Thompson** and **Thomas K. Weddle** recently assisted re-

searchers from the University of Maine and the Maine State Museum in the search for woolly mammoth remains in

Scarborough. •• Colleagues and friends gathered for a surprise celebration honoring **Fred Todd's** twenty years of dedicated service with the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission. •• **Steve**

Oliveri represented the Bureau of Public Lands at the annual Submerged Lands Management Conference. •• Forest Ranger **Charlie Platt** of Millinocket appears in a fire danger warning public service announcement that will be televised next year. ••

District Forest Ranger **Steve Day** has produced a 45-minute video highlighting the major 1992 fires. This video, which has some outstanding footage of the Cold Stream and Allagash fires, is being shown for the first time at the Maine Forest Service Fryeburg Fair display. •• **Andy Mendes**

attended a "Interviewing Techniques" course and will train other forest rangers in the technique during annual winter training. •• Forest Rangers **Jay Bernard, Jon Blackstone, Jeff Currier, Tim Post, Ritchie Hafford, Art Holman**, and Ranger Pilots **Otis Gray** and **Scott Bates** have received Forest Practices Act training from MFS foresters. •• **Marie Drew**, who retired this spring, has returned as a SERVE/Maine volunteer. Marie is helping the MCC and SERVE/Maine. •• **Tom Charles**, BPL forester, recently presented a forest management workshop for Unity College students-including CCCM team members-at Dodge Point in Newcastle. •• Park Managers **Dan Bell** and **Scott Woodruff** will teach a first aid and CPR certification class for the USM CCCM team at Sebago Lake State park this Friday. •• A team of L.L. Bean employees, under the supervision of BPL's **Steve Spencer**, recently constructed two water access campsites on Mooselookmeguntic Lake. Bean volunteers helped Steve survey the lake's shoreline this summer to find the best locations for campsites. •• The Outlet Road on BPL's Seboeis Unit is being reconstructed. The work is scheduled for completion in October. •• There have been nearly 35% fewer forest fires compared to last year at this time. As of the end of September, there had been 569 fires compared to 910 for the same period last year.