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

Maine Department of Conservation

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### Commissioner's Column

As this *BULLETIN* went to print, we were working on requests from the Budget Office for additional information on actions needed to meet the FY 94/95 budget target. As soon as the details are complete, we will provide information to you on the cuts that will be necessary to live within the budget figure determined for the department. All bureaus and programs will be affected by the budget reductions.

The discussion of the state's budget over the coming months will again bring a period during which various proposals will be made that could affect our programs. In our discussions with legislators, we have seen a high degree of recognition from them on the impact of previous cuts on the department, as well as concern about the impact of further reductions in our programs. As we have discussed with you before, we are telling legislators that it is critical to be planning toward Maine's future as well as taking steps to control the state's budget. Natural resources are a key to a sound future for the state. Thus, as the budget discussions include debate over priorities and tough choices, I believe adequate investments are essential in the programs that promote and sustain those resources.

It is likely the budget discussions will again bring up the topic of restructuring state government. We are aware that these discussions include proposals for consolidating some functions of natural resource agencies.

We will be discussing these proposals fully and will keep you informed as to any developments which might affect programs in this department.

Thank you all for your efforts over the past year. Your work helped make DOC widely recognized as a very professional agency that provides effective services to the public and protection of the resource in a cost effective manner. As we go forward, I recognize that everyone has to make adjustments in how we work each time there are more changes to our budget.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for the holiday season and the coming year.

*Ed Meadows*

### DOC Employees Give 101 Percent

Thanks to the 95 DOC employees who gave \$8,200 to the 1992 Maine State Employees Combined Charitable Appeal.

Special thanks go to Gloria Allen, Judy Andrews, Steve Curtis, Sally Doyle, Leigh Hoar, Kim Pierce, Lisa Sirois, Judy Tyler and Leslie Wiles, all of whom worked to make the campaign a success.

Employees who won prizes in MSECCA raffles included: Judy Andrews, Patty Bailey, Sue Bell, Rita Brann, Tom Cieslinski, Bill Cleaves, Herb Hartman, Joe Kelley, Jean Lapointe, Jeannine Plourd, Beatrice Spencer, John Titus, Fred Todd, Tom Weddle and Ben Wilson.

### Conservation Notes

**Scott Woodruff, Tom Skolfield, Steve Garron, Dan Bell, John Titus, Dalton and Joanne Kirk, Cindy Bastey and Lori Blier** earned some public relations credits for the Department of Conservation on December 4 when they were seen by the public television audience answering the phones in Lewiston during Maine Public Television's pledge drive. •• Forest Rangers **Bruce Small, Bill Williams, Bill Getchell and Lance Martin** teach self-defense at the Criminal Justice Academy. •• **Gordon Bell**, Camden Hills State Park manager, spoke to a recent meeting of the West Bay (Camden) Rotary Club. •• Assistant District Ranger **Paul Perry** of Cherryfield helped TV reporter Alan Grover prepare a story about the MFS role in the tipping and Christmas tree industry. Participating with Perry was Champion Forester Al Tausen. •• The first in a series of Fire Control Division computer training sessions has been held. **Peter Bouchard, George Bourassa, Tom Driscoll and Tom Parent** were instructors for the 3-day session. **Harry Doughty, Sheila Elliot, Jill French, Calvin Hafford, John Knight, Rodney Littlefield, Andy Mendes, Dick Morse, Jeannine Plourd, Lisa Sirois, Albie Turner and Dave Wight** attended. •• Trail head parking areas at Camden Hills overflowed on several fall weekends according to Park Manager **Gordon Bell**, who credits fine weekend weather to the increase in use. •• Reid State Park Ranger **John Cooke** represented the Bureau of Parks and Recreation at the Boy Scouts of America Scouter's Conference in Wiscasset on December 12. •• **Patty Bailey, Steve Curtis and Marshall Wiebe** are collaborating on an outline for an Interactive TV program entitled "Leave Only Footprints: Low-Impact Use of State Parks."

### Gary Morse Selected For APA Safety Award

For the second consecutive year, Gary Morse received the American Pulpwood Association's H.H. Jefferson Memorial Award. The award is given annually to the person who exhibits outstanding contributions to woods safety.

Gary has been on the APA Safety and Training Committee for many years and is currently vice chair of this committee. He is also a member of the Northern Woods Safety Foundation board of directors, ex-officio member of the Certified Logging Professional Certification (CLP) Board and a CLP instructor and evaluator whose efforts have been recognized as significant in helping make that program a success.

Gary has written many safety related articles and has assisted in the production of two logging safety videos.

### Forest Rangers Provide Rescue Assistance

Forest rangers and ranger pilots have been involved in several recent rescue efforts.

• On November 10, Forest Ranger Lewis Prescott of Weld was the first to reach a Connecticut man who broke his leg while hunting near Richardson Lake. Lewis helped treat the man and carry him to a waiting ambulance.

• On November 17, Ranger Pilot John Knight airlifted 3 canoeists from near Attean Falls near Jackman. The New Hampshire residents were attempting the "Bow Trip" when one canoe capsized after going over Attean Falls. The people were very cold but unharmed.

• On November 21, John Knight again was requested to airlift a lost hunter out of a remote wooded section in Bowtown Twp. near The Forks.

## **Snowmobiling Featured In Maine Guide to Winter**

"Maine provides the ultimate winter recreation" according to Scott Ramsay, BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division coordinator, whose article, "Winter Means Snowmobiling," appears in the 1992 *Maine Guide to Winter*.

The *Guide to Winter* is used to respond to the thousands of requests the Maine Publicity Bureau receives for information about Maine's winter recreation opportunities. People in Maine and throughout the country use the *Guide* to plan their winter vacations.

In his article, Scott credits the contributions of clubs, volunteers, businesses and private landowners who help make Maine's Snowmobile Program a success.

### **"Our (Maine's) trail system is second to none in North America."**

**Scott Ramsay**

Scott says that Maine's 10,000 miles of snowmobile trails attract riders - and dollars - to nearly every part of Maine and suggests making early reservations for accommodations in the more popular areas since "many of their facilities begin filling even before the snow hits the ground."

Scott's enthusiasm for Maine snowmobiling ("If you haven't experienced Maine in winter, you haven't lived") and his pride in the snowmobile program appear throughout the article. "Winter Means Snowmobiling" will boost winter tourism and underlines the connection between Maine's economic well-being and this Department of Conservation natural resource-based, outdoor recreation program.

#### **1992-93 Maine Snowmobile Program Highlights**

- The first "rail to trail" acquisition is open to snowmobiling in Aroostook (AVRR); two more former rail line acquisitions are being appraised.
- 96 municipal snowmobile trail grant applications have been received, six more than last year, as towns recognize the value of snowmobile related tourism.
- Several new snowmobile clubs have registered with BPR. Some clubs are moving to joint use trails with cross country skiers and/or ATV users as members.
- Snowmobile sales are reported to be up 25% over last year when 63,471 sleds were registered.
- Landowner liability continues to be a concern despite special laws covering state trails.

## **MCC Plans for 1993 Summer Projects**

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) is accepting project proposals for 1993 summer worksites. MCC teams of 4 to 6 corpsmembers plus a team leader work on conservation and outdoor recreation projects for both public and private nonprofit agencies. The teams work 30 hours per week for eight weeks. This year three College Conservation Corps (CCCM) teams will also be available for residential summer projects.

If you have a potential project for the Corps and did not receive a proposal form, contact Ken Spalding or Dave Gerken at 287-4931. The deadline for getting completed proposals back to the MCC is January 14, 1993.

## **College Conservation Corps of Maine Expands**

The College Conservation Corps of Maine will add six new corpsmembers and a team leader to the program. Five new corpsmembers and their team leader will be based at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham, and one corpsmember will be added to the team at Unity College. The expansion of the USM teams will allow for new work projects to be undertaken at sites within commuting distance of the Gorham campus. Contact Dave Gerken if you have a possible work project for the USM teams during the spring semester.

## **Fire Control Division Completes Winter Training**

The last of four Forest Fire Control Winter Training Sessions at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Waterville was completed on December 4.

These state level training sessions for all forest rangers help ensure consistency and replace some training that was done within districts.

Maine Forest Service instructors for all four sessions included: Andy Mendes, interviewing techniques; Bruce Small, Lance Martin, Bill Hamilton and Bill Williams, self-defense tactics; Debbie Davis and Kim Pierce, hiring /supervisory techniques; and Gary Morse, Forest Practices Act.

Sue Bell and Tom Parent gave bureau and division updates at each of the sessions. Staff from other agencies, such as the Maine Court System and the Bureau of Labor Standards, also instructed during the four sessions.

## **MGS CREST Project On Interactive TV**

On December 9, the Maine Geological Survey's CREST Project hosted an Interactive TV broadcast on the timely subject of "Global Climate Change." The program was broadcast live to receiving sites throughout the state and featured a panel of scientists from the Institute for Quaternary Studies at the University of Maine. Lou McNally, a well-known meteorologist and host of Maine Public Television's "Made in Maine," led the panel discussion of climate change issues and fielded questions from the student audience. It is expected that the program will also be rebroadcast on MPT sometime in January.

## **SERVE/Maine Project Descriptions Due**

SERVE/Maine recruits volunteers to work on public natural resource projects which would otherwise go undone. Project descriptions describing work that your agency would like SERVE/Maine volunteers to accomplish are due January 11, 1993.

Last year SERVE/Maine recruited volunteer photographers, trail maintainers, computer consultants, environmental educators and people with many other skills to work on volunteer projects across the state. In 1992 over 750 people volunteered through the SERVE/Maine program. SERVE/Maine volunteers contributed 25,000 hours of labor valued at approximately \$230,000 to Maine's public agencies.

Please contact Libbey Seigars at 287-4945 for project description forms and additional information about SERVE/Maine.

## **Health Insurance Changes Negotiated**

Information about proposed changes to the state's employee health insurance plan will not be available until February according to the Bureau of Employee Health Insurance. The bureau has not yet approved any change to the plan. If changes are made, they are expected to become effective on April 1, 1993.

The DOC Personnel Section is in close contact with the bureau and will update DOC employees as information becomes available.