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Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, September 1993

Maine Department of Conservation

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Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information September 1993

BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner's Column

As I travelled throughout the state this summer to meet with employees and visit field operations, I was again impressed by the outstanding accomplishments and quality work being achieved by our department. Certainly it is true that economic conditions remain tight and that we continue to adjust to the changes in our staffing and our budget. Precisely because of these challenges, it is exciting to see us achieve many new projects which have lasting value to Maine people and our state's natural resources. One way in which we have been able to achieve these goals is working together in partnerships with a wide variety of other organizations. Just a few examples include:

- The new handicapped-accessible public boat access site in Rockwood which provides a stunningly beautiful "window" to Mt. Kineo and Moosehead Lake.
- The recently-opened park on Lake George created in partnership with Skowhegan and Canaan and operated by them with help from BPR and MCC.
- A new hiking trail at Bradbury Mountain State Park built by Parks' staff and MCC on land added to the park through the Land for Maine's Future program.

Two reasons come to mind as to why these, and other new achievements, were accomplished. First, of course, is the commitment and foresight of department employees who provide the vision and energy to make them happen. Second is the power and potential of working in partnership with other agencies, municipalities, landowners, the private sector, non-profit associations and others. Every program in the department uses such partnerships for cost effective service delivery. Examples include:

- Our work with business associations, federal agencies, the National Science Foundation and school systems for environmental education through CREST, Project Learning Tree, and Parks in the Schools programs.
- LURC's program to guide sound land use and development while retaining high quality natural character of our state's lakes and woods.
- Forestry's work with consultants and private owners to deliver federal cost share and urban forestry assistance, educate loggers, create forest management plans, and keep accurate records on forest growth and harvest.
- Public Lands' agreements with IF&W for enhancement of game and non-game wildlife on state lands.
- Creation of "Friends groups" which contribute services, raise funds and generate support for projects at Ft. Knox, Montpelier, and Eagle Island.

Obviously there are many, many more each of you could list.

Working with such partners in new ways has untapped potential. DOC is a recognized leader in finding ways to "work smarter." Partnerships are just one example of this. Your suggestions are welcome on how we can best use our department resources to accomplish even more.

Ed Meadows

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 10—**Second Annual DOC Picnic**, Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., contact Gale Ross or Lori Blier in Augusta.
- 11—**Annual Park Picnic**, Mt. Blue State Park in Weld - contact Sally Doyle at BPR in Augusta.
- 12-16—**Seventy-first Annual Meeting of National Association of State Foresters**, hosted by MFS at Bar Harbor, contact Tom Wood.
- 14-15—**Annual Park Fall Meeting** Camp Keyes, Augusta.
- Employee Recognition Events- 13-16**
- 13—**Career Service Awards Ceremony** National Guard Armory, Augusta. (See box at right)
- 14—**Capitol Park Picnic, Employee Talent Show/agency exhibits**, 12 - 1:30 p.m.
- 16—**Road Race, Fun Walk and "So You Think You Know Maine State Government"** Capitol steps at noon.
- 18—**Dalton Kirk's retirement party** in Orono, contact Sally Doyle.

OCTOBER

- 2—**Smokey Bear's fiftieth anniversary celebration** begins in Maine. The Falmouth Fire Department will present Smokey with a birthday cake for 700 at the Falmouth Central Fire Station, 12-5 p.m.

Conservation Notes

With the great summer weather, use of state parks and historic sites has increased this year over last year. Fort Knox State Historic Site in Prospect had nearly 3,000 visitors during a recent weekend Civil War period encampment by the 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry and a chicken barbecue sponsored by the Friends of Fort Knox. Fort Knox staff **Frank Appleby, Dick Robbins, Blaine Winchester, Sylke Nesensohn**, and **Lisa Wight** "held down the fort" throughout the busy weekend which was the subject of a front page *Bangor Daily News* picture feature. A recent new addition to Fort Knox is a remodelled interpretive center featuring photographs, graphics, and text about the history of the fort. The interpretive center project was begun by former Manager **Mike Leighton** and Ranger **Dick Robbins**. **Sheila McDonald** and **Frank Appleby** completed the project with the assistance of **Bill Cleaves, Dick Robbins**, and **Blaine Winchester**.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park staff **Andy Hutchinson** and **Pat Bailey** invite all DOC staff and their families to attend this fall's weekend nature programs. Highlights include a walk, "The Excitement of Mushrooms," to be led by **Sam Ristich** on September 19; a program, "Dolphins and Humans Sharing the Earth," led by **Nan Haible** on October 2; and a talk, "Bird Banding How and Why," given by **Dan and Marjorie Johnson** on October 3. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m. at the signs and

Conservation Notes

continued on reverse

Career Public Service Award Recipients

Twenty-one DOC employees will receive career public service awards this year for 25 years (or more) of service. The recipients are: Walter Anderson, Maine Geological Survey; Fred Bartlett (30), Real Property Management; Tim Caverly, Walter Edgecomb, Nelson Peterson (30) Richard Skinner (36), Tom Skolfield, Doug Tyler, Ken Wiley, Bureau of Parks and Recreation; Don Cote, Land Use Regulation Commission; Jack Dirkman, (30) Richard Morse, Del Ramey, Bureau of Public Lands; Bill Getchell, Ed Jones, (30), Tom Lemont, Bob Leso, (30), Roger Stanley, Dave Stewart, (40), Ancyl Thurston, (30), Maine Forest Service; Barbara McGee, Administrative Services.

Conservation Notes continued benches at the end of the second parking lot. The fall nature program series, with walks led by **Pat Bailey**, continues through Sunday, October 17.

Gordon Moore, David Mercier, David Allen, Gloria Allen and Donna McLaughlin of the Land Use Regulation Commission participated in Greenville's Forestry Heritage Days celebration hosting an open house at the commission's Greenville field office as well as staffing a booth with the Maine Forest Service.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park hosted a recent training program that was part of the Natural Resource Institute. Twenty-eight teachers took part in the training program, which is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture. **Pat Bailey** introduced the group to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's self-guiding "Explore the Shore" program and provided relevant teaching materials.

Brian Bronson of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation recently attended a national conference on ATV safety held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Fort Popham, after being closed earlier this season, is open once again thanks to the efforts of several Bureau of Parks and Recreation staff. The fort had some safety problems that have been corrected by regional staff **Tim Hall, Mike Leighton, Jarvis Johnson, Francois Roy, and Don King** with the help and support of **Ben Kreiton** and **Dave Percy** from Popham Beach State Park and **Steve Curtis** from the Augusta office.

Land Use Regulation Commission staff **Charles Corliss, Fred Griffith** and **Gloria Allen** traveled to the Town of Mount Chase where they hosted a "Field Office for the Day" for residents of the Town of Mount Chase and surrounding plantations and unorganized townships.

State park staff will be at Camp Keyes in Augusta on September 14 & 15 for the annual fall meeting according to **Steve Curtis**. A recap of summer '93 and the continuing search for ways to improve operations, maintenance, customer service, fee collection and resource protection is on the agenda. Park Manager of the Year and outstanding achievement award recipients will named.

Forest Ranger **Gary Cook** worked with the Milo-Brownville Hot Shots and raised \$250 for Midwest flood victims.

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) and the College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) wrapped up their summer with a service project and Recognition Day at Bradbury Mt. State Park in Pownal.

Over 100 corpsmembers from across the state took part in projects on the Knights Woods Loop Trail in preparation for its official opening for public use. The teams were led by MCC, CCCM team leaders and personnel from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Parks' personnel who worked with the Conservation Corps included Park Managers **Dan Bell, Andy Hutchinson and Gary Stelflug** and Park Rangers **Beth Scherpf and Dan Brown**. Commissioner **Ed Meadows** officially opened the trail for public use along with BPR Regional Supervisor **Tom Skolfield**. Recognition Day activities in the afternoon included a slide presentation of summer projects and Certificate of Achievement awards being given to corpsmembers. First year College Conservation Corps members were also recognized for their hard work and successful completion of the program.

College Conservation Corpsmembers began their first semester at Unity College on August 24 with a week-long freshman orientation program. The CCCM will begin service projects in the Unity area early this month. If you are interested in sponsoring a service project, please contact **Dave Gerkens** at 287-6107.

Steve Curtis and **Lin Gosselin** of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation have been working on a volunteer program for the bureau. The new program, Maine Volunteers in Parks (MVP), will be announced early next year. MVP will address the continuing need for volunteers at state parks and historic sites and will be patterned on the SERVE/Maine program that was eliminated by budget reductions. Park employees are encouraged continue to recruit volunteers for the MVP program.

People

Promotions/Transfers

- **Linda LaCroix** from Payroll to Account Clerk II, Administrative Services
- **Dan Bell** from Park Manager II (Bradbury Mountain) to Park Manager III (Reid)

New Employees

- **Ellen Blair** from the Department of Mental Health and Retardation to Personnel Specialist, Administrative Services

Resignation

- **Janice Esancy** from LURC

Jim Downey reported that as August came to a close, forest fires and extreme fire danger in many areas in Washington and Hancock Counties lead to the cancellation of all days off for rangers in the central region. A Huey helicopter was moved to Jonesboro, and two helicopters were standing by in Old Town at the end of August. Rangers had been brought in from other areas to assist with suppression activities. The forest fire danger for much of eastern Maine was high to very high at month's end. Lightning and campfires were the two most common causes of fires.

David Allen of the Land Use Regulation Commission gave a presentation and participated on a panel discussion about pond construction, permitting and other regulatory concerns at a program sponsored by the Somerset Soil and Water Conservation District in Skowhegan.

Eleven rangers are attending a four-week Forest Ranger Academy at Bolton Hill according to **Leslie Wiles**, Fire Control Division training coordinator. The rangers are receiving classroom instruction in many subjects with field exercises scheduled for reinforcement. **Susan Chisolm** of Maine Public Radio spoke to the rangers on how get the fire prevention message to the public.

Tom Parent, state forest fire control supervisor, reports that drought conditions entering the fall fire season have not been this extreme since 1965. Parent is making preparations with the Maine Emergency Management Agency for fire control activities in the event the prolonged dry spell continues.

Forest Ranger **Gary Cook** and Ranger Pilot **Otis Gray** recently held a helicopter safety training session for hot-shot fire fighters. The event was covered by Channel 7 of Bangor.

The Northern Forest Lands Council will release a report in mid-September on its subcommittees' findings and options. Contact **Don Mansius**, 287-4906, if you wish to review the report.

Twenty-nine pairs of piping plovers nested this year on thirteen beaches including Reid and Popham. This is a modern record and up five pairs from 1992. BPR is assisting in the effort to protect these endangered birds.

CORRECTION: The state Quality Management Council's Process Action Team will address the open market purchase order process, not \$1,200 contracts as reported in the August *BULLETIN*.