

11-1-1993

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

Maine Department of Conservation

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalmaine.com/conservation_newsletters

Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, November 1993" (1993). *Conservation Newsletters*. 48.
https://digitalmaine.com/conservation_newsletters/48

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry at Digital Maine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Conservation Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Maine. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.



Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information November 1993

BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner's Column

A number of efforts are underway that are aimed at enhancing our working conditions and increasing job satisfaction. We have initiated an effort to upgrade the department's computer system to be more efficient and "user friendly." It will enable us to connect bureaus together for better communication, as well as providing a foundation for linking up field offices. We have limited resources but will be doing what we can to convert to a system that is faster and provides more opportunities to do more functions by computer.

The department's Quality Management Council has been formed (see related item in this Bulletin). The council is in the process of learning about TQM and will develop plans for implementing TQM in DOC. Meanwhile, the state Quality Council is discussing a plan to provide TQM orientation for all employees and a newsletter to keep everyone up to date on TQM activities throughout state government. We will keep you informed of key developments.

The parks bond issue passed! Maine voters approved referendum question #4 which will provide \$3.1 million for major capital improvements at state parks. This is a much-needed start toward addressing some of our major infrastructure needs.

Question #5 also passed. This item amended the state Constitution to require approval of two-thirds of the legislature to sell or change the use of state parks and public lands which are to be designated as "conservation lands". The department will now work with the legislature to identify which properties will be designated and what type of change in use will require legislative approval.

With the current attention on the devastating fires in California, I would like to commend the efforts of the Fire Control Division and the other department employees whose hard work made this year one of the safest in memory for forest fires in Maine. Despite the worst drought conditions in four decades, we successfully contained the acres burned to less than 1/2 the five-year annual average.

Ed Meadows

Conservation Notes

We now have all the members for the department's Quality Management Council. They are: **Walter Anderson, Gordon Bell, Susan Bell, David Boulter, Will Harris, Herb Hartman, John Hinkley, Ben Kreiton, Bob Marvinney, Ed Meadows, David Mercier, Karen Michaud, Carol Michel, Tom Morrison, Sue Myers, Steve Oliveri, Deb Phillips, Maryann Sargent, Steve Vondell, Marshall Wiebe and Tom Wood.** The council met for the first time on November 10. Please feel free to contact any council member with questions, concerns or ideas about total quality management.

A bond issue recently approved by voters will bring \$3.15 million to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation for critically needed work on water and septic systems at sixteen state parks. BPR director **Herb Hartman** says planning for the work will begin this winter with some projects scheduled to be underway next summer.

DOC Maine State Employees Combined Appeal Chair **Carol Michel** thanks those who have donated to the '93 campaign. DOC is trying to match the \$8,200 raised last year and had reached 47 percent of that goal on Nov. 8.

"I know that we all offer our time, talents and financial support in many different efforts throughout the year. The United Way is an opportunity for you to make a donation to organizations in the area in which you live or to donate to a particular organization or cause. There is literally something for everyone. Through payroll deduction, giving can be made easy and with relatively little impact on your household budgets. I urge you all to consider a gift to the United Way as we enter this holiday season. Thanks for your support."

Fort Knox State Historic Site in Prospect hosted a first-time event on Halloween this year, according to Manager **Frank Appleby**. On that day, 50 members of the re-enactment group Company B, 20th Maine Infantry conducted a special event, "Spirits of the Civil War." Members of the 20th Maine led guided tours of the fort for about 120 visitors and introduced "spirits" from the past who told ghost stories and demonstrated activities of military life.

BPR Snowmobile Coordinator **Jim Mangin** and his wife **Deanna**, along with other members of the Kennebec River Power Squadron, helped open trails on Warren Island while vacationing at the park. They also assisted in rescuing a stranded sail boat and transporting a woman off the island who needed medical attention.

The Down East RC&D presented **Tom Wood**, of the Maine Forest Service, with its "Outstanding Contributor Award" for 1993. The award was presented for Tom's leadership and support in the planning and execution of the National Association of State Foresters Convention.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway personnel **Jim Kelly, Kim Lynch, Tom Coon, Mikie Pillsbury, and Peter Goheen** recently worked with volunteer contractors to stabilize the boarding house at Churchill Dam. The boarding house, built in the 1920s and used to house woodworkers, has long been a prominent feature in the Churchill Dam area. **Tim Caverly, Ron Hunt, Doug Tyler, and Sheila McDonald** have also been involved with the project.

Unity College will assist in the care of the Harris Mountain Firetower in Dixmont according to MFS Director **Sue Bell**. **Caroline Parmenter**, who served for many years as tower lookout, contacted the college about this endeavor which involves Unity CCCM teams. Through this partnership, the tower will be listed on the National Register of Historic Firetowers.

Scott Ramsay, supervisor of BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division, recently spoke about managing multiple-use trails to nearly 100 people in two groups, the Scarborough Land Trust and municipal parks and recreation directors.

Two MDOT (ISTEA) grants involve BPR. One grant will fund the Maine bike and pedestrian study, which will be conducted by BPR staff **Mike Gallagher** and **Cindy Bastey**. The other grant will fund the purchase of land adjacent to BPR's ownership in Damariscotta where archaeological research and site planning will be conducted in order to enhance public access to and resource protection of significant prehistoric oyster shell middens.

Conservation Notes continued

The Down East RC&D presented the Maine Forest Service with the "Area Wide Resource Conservation and Development Measure" award for 1993 for our commitment to the promotion of Maine by hosting the National Association of State Foresters Convention in Bar Harbor in September. Over 250 people attended the conference, bringing thousands of dollars to Maine travel and tourism businesses.

Several Maine Geological Survey staff members presented talks and poster sessions at the national meeting of the Geological Society of Maine (GSA) held in Boston on October 25-28. MGS also exhibited publications and maps produced by the Geographic Information System, including newly published maps of Maine's sand and gravel aggregate resources. **Bob Johnston, Joe Kelley, Woody Thompson and Tom Weddle** organized and served as trip leaders on three of the GSA field conferences.

Fire Support Supervisor, **Harry Doughty** departed for Ontario, California on Oct. 28th to assist with suppression activities on a fire which was burning on federal lands, east of Los Angeles. Doughty termed the losses as devastating. Doughty was serving as operations section chief.

Steve Spencer, BPL recreation specialist, attended the "North American Water Trails Conference" in Mills Norrie, New York. Steve conducted a workshop on boat access campsite design and construction.

Forest ranger **Lance Martin** attended a state-wide advanced defensive tactics training course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Waterville. The three-day course was attended by several instructors from various state law enforcement agencies. Martin will incorporate this new training into the Maine Forest Service training program.

Although Maine experienced one of the driest fire seasons in years, fire occurrence is down from last year according to Forest Ranger **Jim Downie**. 700 fires have been reported through the end of October, with approximately 1,200 acres burned. The total acreage burned is less than 1/2 the 5 year average. Last year 761 fires consumed over 4,500 acres.

Thousands of children and adults visited **Smokey Bear** as part of his 50th anniversary celebration at the Fryeburg Fair. Recently, the Falmouth Fire Department held an open house with more than 800 people attending. The highlight of

the day was when a 13 foot birthday cake with 40 pounds of frosting was presented to Smokey.

Christmas wreath tipping has begun in Washington County and other areas according to Regional Ranger **Dave Wight** of Old Town. Forest rangers in Dave's region enforce state laws that affect the gathering of the tips or brush. It is estimated that last year in Maine, 8,000 tons of fir, pine and cedar brush was harvested to make wreaths and other Christmas decorations. Last year, because of damage caused by the balsam tip aphid, tippers in some sections of the state had problems collecting high quality wreath material. According to I&DM Division surveys of tipping conditions for this year, the extent and intensity of the problem in most of the state has substantially subsided.

David Allen of the Land Use Regulation Commission gave a presentation to the Maine Snowmobile Association discussing various LURC permitting and management issues.

Gordon Moore of the Land Use Regulation Commission's Greenville Office conducted training on the commission's rules, standards and permit requirements for new Maine Forest Service Fire Control Rangers at their training academy held at Bolton Hill.

Do you have some labor intensive work that could be done by a team of young people in the summer of 1994? The MCC is now seeking proposals for 1994 summer projects. The MCC does work to benefit the public on both public and private non-profit lands. Contact **Ken Spalding** 287-4931 for more information and proposal materials.

The College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) has begun recruitment for corpsmembers who: are 16-24 years old; must enroll with their local Jobs Training Office (requires meeting income guidelines); have a high school diploma or GED; have the ability to succeed at college, with some developmental courses if needed; are interested in a natural resources career; and, face significant obstacles in attending college.

The new corpsmembers begin the 12 month College Conservation Corps program in January, working on a residential service project. Corpsmembers will then move onto campus at Unity College for the spring semester. During the spring corpsmembers attend classes full time and work

DOC People

New

Sue Burns, LURC, part-time chief planner

Matthew Gomes, forest ranger, Millinocket (Long A)

Joseph Mints, forest ranger, Clayton Lake

Henry Nichols, LURC, chief planner, (Natural Resources Protection Act)

Shane Nichols, forest ranger, Daaquam.

Elaine Szady, LURC, word processing

Retired

Daniel Pratt, entomologist, after 27+ years of service to the MFS

Deceased

J. Lee Hafford, AWW ranger (retired), on November 4

Winston C. Robbins, BPR engineer (retired), on November 5

on conservation based, community service projects. Summer will be spent serving as assistant team leaders for a Maine Conservation Corps team, interns for a natural resource agency or as part of a backcountry team. They will return to Unity for their final semester with the CCCM in the fall.

The CCCM is continually seeking opportunities for service projects within commuting distance of Unity College. If you are interested in sponsoring a service project or know a young person who may be interested in the CCCM, please contact **Dave Gerkens** at 287-6107.

Catherine Varney, Jeannine Lapointe, Gordon Moore and Gloria Allen conducted a Land Use Regulation Commission "Field Office for the Day" out of the Maine Forest Service office at Brownville Junction.

David Allen, Donald Cote and Gloria Allen hosted an open house at the Land Use Regulation Commission Ashland field office.

The College Conservation Corps (CCCM) completed work on the Megunticook Trail at Camden Hills State Park. CCCM teams constructed rock treadways, stairs and waterbars and replaced a log ladder on the trail according to Park Manager **Gordon Bell**.

CCCM teams began work at Lake St. George State Park. CCCM corpsmembers and team leaders will be rehabilitating and upgrading existing cross country skiing and snowmobile trails within the park. The corps will also improve the park's recycling operation. Park Manager **Mick Rogers** and Park Ranger **Mark Wight** provide technical assistance.