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Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, January 1994

Maine Department of Conservation

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Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information January 1994

BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner's Column

As 1994 begins, I offer my very best wishes to each of you for a healthy, safe and productive year.

Reports of business conditions indicate the economy is stable or improving slightly. Projections for the state budget show a slight surplus anticipated at the end of FY '94 based on current spending. When compared with what we have experienced the last several years, this is very positive news.

I am optimistic that in the coming year we will be able to continue adjusting to the changes which have occurred in our programs and to effectively meet the new challenges ahead. Natural resource issues will continue to play a key role in public policy discussions. The sound management of these resources for the long-term benefit of people and the natural environment will be more important than ever.

Some of the emerging challenges that we will be involved in include the export and import of wood and the role exports and imports play in Maine's economy. Biological diversity (or "biodiversity") and ecosystem management will be major topics of discussion. We will be working with various interests and agencies to better define how these issues may affect privately-owned and public lands in Maine and how they may affect resource management programs.

Shippen ("Ship") Bright has joined our team to fill the position previously held by Cathy Ward. He will be involved in providing support to department programs, assisting with legislative efforts, and in implementing TQM, affirmative action, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions. Ship has a diverse background in consulting, the real estate business, and as a former human resources officer in the Navy. He has a masters degree in public administration and has worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations.

I look forward to seeing you in 1994.

Ed Meadows

DOC Employees Attend Conway TQM Training

Ten department employees chosen by the DOC Total Quality Management Council joined employees from throughout state government to attend two-day Conway training programs during the first week of January. In a letter to participants, State Director of Training Elaine Trubee said, "The program will give you the quality tools and group process skills to assist you in introducing total quality concepts in your work unit. We think this will be an exciting two days and look forward to working with you."

DOC employees selected to participate were: Tom Parent and Harry Doughty, Forest Service; Del Ramey and Jack Dirkman, Public Lands; Donna McLaughlin and Jeannine Lapointe, LURC; Bob Tucker and Tom Weddle, Geology; and Scott Woodruff and Ralph Wilkinson, Parks and Recreation.

According to departmental TQM Coordinator Carol Michel, only 240 employees could receive this special opportunity to train with management consultant and TQM expert William Conway. TQM training for all DOC employees is anticipated for February. Ten percent of the state's workforce - about 1,300 people - are expected to be involved in TQM process action teams by 1995.

Indoor Air Quality Update

In response to concerns about Harlow Building air quality, a questionnaire on symptoms or discomfort that may be related to indoor air was sent to all Harlow workers. After receiving the completed questionnaires, Engineering and Realty Director Fred Bartlett arranged an inspection of the Harlow Building by engineering and air quality experts. Maintenance and structural problems that may be contributing factors were identified by the inspection. This information is being included in the work of the process action team (PAT) examining air quality in all AMHI complex buildings. The PAT, charged with making air quality improvement recommendations, was chartered by the state's Total Quality Management Council. Debra Phillips, DOC personnel manager, is a member of the PAT and will provide information on its progress.

At DOC headquarters in Old Town, Bureau of Public Lands workers in a building where air quality has been a problem have moved to the Maine Forest Service conference room in an adjacent building. A permanent solution to the Old Town situation is being pursued as the department continues to seek ways to improve the workplace environment at all DOC facilities.

DOC People

Promotion

- Ralph Knoll, Chief Planner, Bureau of Public Lands, Augusta

New Hires

- Shippen Bright, Assistant to the Commissioner, Augusta
- Sherry Thomas, Clerk Typist II, Fire Control, Bolton Hill

Retirements (effective 12/31/93)

- Edward Holman, Forest Ranger II, 27 years of service
- Philip Mayo, Park Ranger III, 35 years of service
- Barbara McGee, Personnel Assistant, 25 years of service

Transfers

- Jeff Courier, to Forest Ranger, Wesley
- Mick Rogers, to Manager Bradbury Mt. State Park, Pownal

Deceased

- Jim Drake, former Allagash Wilderness Water Ranger

Conservation Notes

✶ BPR Engineering Technician **Dick Coffin** and Lake St. George State Park Manager **Mick Rogers** have trained College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) members in boundary line maintenance, a continuing and essential task on all department lands. According to Allagash Wilderness Waterway Supervisor **Tim Caverly**, a CCCM crew housed at the Round Pond MFS camp in T6R11 was scheduled to begin clearing, blazing and painting Waterway boundaries on a day last week when the north country wind chill fell to minus 50! Crew members are: **Billie Jo Powell, Laura-Lee LaPointe, Kyle Johnson, Jason Brewer, Ricky Dodge** and Team Leader **Richard Bouchard**.

✶ A Maine Forest Service public service announcement produced by WGME-TV was one of the top two 1992 public service announcements recognized during the annual Broderson Awards Ceremony. The PSA involved the Gray Fire Department, Pilot **Harold Jones** and Forest Ranger **Greg Hesslein**. The spot projected a sense of emergency by creatively combining sounds and pictures of fire, people, a Maine Forest Service helicopter and other emergency equipment.

✶ Numbers (but not letters) up to 20,000 may be requested until Jan. 31 for the conservation license plates. Send requests to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Special Plates Registration Section, Station 29, Augusta ME 04333.

✿ The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and Lowell and Company Timber Associates have received a special commendation from the New England Chapter of the American Planning Association for the Lowell Concept Plan for Attean Township and Dennistown Plantation according to **Gloria Allen**. The Lowell Concept Plan has received the Planning Project of the Year Award from the Maine Association of Planners.

✿ The CCCM hosted a visitor from the federal Corporation on National and Community Service, the agency responsible for granting funds establishing the CCCM program, and **Ken Spalding**, Director of the Maine Conservation Corps. Corpsmembers gave the visitors a tour of Unity College, where CCCM is based, and gave a slide presentation on accomplishments and service projects.

✿ **Debra Phillips** and **Ellen Blair** will handle Workers' Compensation for the department following the December retirement of **Barbara McGee**. Barbara will be honored during a January 28 retirement dinner. Contact **Debbie Veilleux** for information.

✿ Winter activities are underway at state parks according to **Sheila McDonald**. The volunteer fire department is helping flood an ice skating rink at Mount Blue State Park headquarters. Mount Blue is also preparing for snowmobile and cross country skiing as a result of the recent snowfall. Cross country skiing has already started at Aroostook State Park and Cobscook Bay State Park. For more information about cross country skiing on DOC lands consult, "Guide to Cross Country Skiing on Maine State Parks and Public Lands," available from BPR and BPL.

✿ **Sue Bell, Craig Ten Broeck, Jack Dirkman, Tom Doak, Herb Hartman, Ralph Knoll, Ed Meadows, Tom Morrison** and **Dick Morse** attended last week's Munsungan Conference where "New Forestry" and the "triad concept" were discussed.

✿ **Jim Rea** and **Carol DiBello** hosted training sessions on map info for BPL regional technicians **Mark Martin, Sean O'Connor** and **Jay Hall**.

✿ Maine gained more than \$750,000 worth of federal excess property in '93 according to Forest Ranger **Bill Getchell**. Much of the equipment is loaned to 125 local fire departments. Maine has more than \$13 million worth of excess property for fire fighting.

✿ BPR's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been approved by the National Park Service, ensuring Maine's continued eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation funds according to BPR's Chief Planner **Tom Cieslinski**.

✿ **Dr. Jonathan Price**, from the National Research Council of the Academy of Sciences, spoke to DOC and DEP staff on national research priorities in the earth sciences recently. Dr. Price is Nevada's state geologist and offered many interesting comments on the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in that state.

✿ CCCM Team Leaders **Rich Bouchard, Tom Bradbury, Alison Hramiec** and Coordinator **Dave Gerkens** have selected seven new corpsmembers. The CCCM is looking forward to operating in the new year with a complement of 18 corpsmembers.

✿ Fire Support Supervisor **Harry Doughty** and District Ranger **Bruce Small** participated in an incident command system meeting in Idaho in December.

✿ Smokey Bear (**Tim Post**) will appear in a TV PSA with the Portland Pirates hockey team. Celebrating his 50th anniversary, Smokey Bear participated in events in the towns of Weld and Hudson. **Jim Downie** says events are planned during 1994 in Lewiston, Freeport, Bangor, Presque Isle and Augusta with the final stop in Acadia National Park on August 9.

✿ "The College Conservation Corps of Maine takes this opportunity to thank everyone within DOC who has helped us during our first full year. Without your support and assistance we would not have been able to provide the high level of service to agencies and communities working to conserve Maine's natural resources. Thank you all and we look forward to continuing these relationships in 1994."

✿ Many anglers opened the ice season on the AWW, and a number of them iced trout despite some hazardous conditions according to Waterway Supervisor **Tim Caverly**. Although Eagle had more than a foot of ice, open water could be found in thoroughfares and at the mouths of brooks. Pressure ridges to several feet created additional hazards on some lakes. Some campsites at Chamberlain Bridge remained vacant.

✿ BPL has replaced all Burroughs computers with PC's, and staff are becoming proficient with the upgraded equipment according to **Pat Simard**.

✿ The holiday season brought a new role for Montpelier State Historic Site in Thomaston. For the first time, Montpelier's rooms were decorated for Christmas, and the building was open to the public for one weekend in December. The event, organized by the Friends of Montpelier with support and assistance from the BPR's Central Region and Augusta staff, was a huge success. More than 700 people toured through the building over the weekend. Live music was also featured, along with Christmas decorations and two large trees in Montpelier's oval room.

✿ **Tom Parent**, MFS, and **Joe Kelley**, MGS, have been the subjects of state employees profiles in the Daily Kennebec Journal.

✿ **Ancyl Thurston**, MFS, helped produce a new four-color Tree Farm Committee brochure.

✿ Several BPR and DOC staff and family helped Maine Public Broadcasting with a televised December fund-raising drive. Answering phones and taking pledges were **Scott Woodruff, Steve** and **Carleen Garron** and their sons **Jason** and **Justin**, **Tom Cieslinski, Cindy Bastey, John Titus, Tom** and **Gordeen Skolfield, John Polackwich, Sue North, Barbara Kimball** and her son **Shawn, Steve** and **Karen Curtis, Dan Bell, and Jim Rea**.

✿ **Steve Curtis** and **Mike Gallagher** from BPR recently attended the 1994 Northern New England Recreation and Park conference "Breakthrough to Excellence." The conference featured sessions on the Americans with Disabilities Act, volunteer programs, and a roundtable for New England park professionals.

✿ Two BPR volunteer support groups of relatively long-standing, the Friends of Montpelier and the Friends of Fort Knox have been joined over the past year by three other groups, the Friends of Eagle Island, Friends of Fort Edgecomb, and most recently, the Friends of Colonial Pemaquid. These groups, which meet regularly and work closely with BPR staff, have undertaken a number of projects, including organization of special events, production of brochures, building community relations, planning, and fund-raising.

✿ BPR Director **Herb Hartman** spoke to the Bristol Lions on plans for up-grading Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site.

✿ Copy deadlines for the next four issues of the BULLETIN are February 1, March 1, March 29 (for April) and April 26.