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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, June 1994

Maine Department of Conservation

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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information June 1994

## BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

### Commissioner's Column

Last month's *Bulletin* briefly mentioned a few innovative ways we are working with others to accomplish projects it would not be possible to do by ourselves. I want to share with you progress we have since made on a couple of other such efforts.

At Fort Knox, the Friends of Fort Knox have teamed with a consulting engineer to develop a plan for dividing badly-needed repairs into a series of distinct projects which can be done by volunteer professional contractors and donated equipment. This will substantially reduce the cost of the repairs, which are estimated at \$3.1 million if done entirely by contract. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation will provide "seed money" which will be matched by the Friends to pay the engineer to supervise the work which will be done by the volunteer contractors.

The Friends also worked with the Belfast and Moosehead Railroad in Belfast to offer a special day of train rides as a fund-raiser for the project to restore the fort. Besides benefitting the repair project, this was a great community event, helped raise awareness and showed the important connection between our facilities, tourism and economic development in rural communities.

The media have shown great interest in these efforts. We hosted a well-attended media briefing at the Fort on May 20 to show the additional damage which occurred this winter. The Channel 5 (Bangor) evening news broadcast live from the fort that day.

Meanwhile, at Montpelier in Thomaston, another partnership effort is working to get the Knox Mansion painted this summer. Prisoners from the state prison will scrape the building. The Friends of Montpelier have obtained donated paint and will raise funds for a contractor to paint the building.

These are just two examples of our work on partnerships and other innovative ways to accomplish our mission with new, fresh approaches. Such efforts contribute to and depend on—not detract from—the work of department employees. This can provide welcomed assistance, especially in these time of limited finances and staffing. We also have seen such efforts help generate interest, excitement and support for all our efforts. The involvement of partnerships, collaboration and alliances can make important contributions to all our programs throughout the department. I look forward to sharing progress on many others in the months to come. Your ideas on such efforts are welcome. In the sidebar at the right, Sheila McDonald describes how BPR is working with volunteers.

A closing thought—the best partnership project of all is one of you and a safe approach to your work. With Memorial Day just behind us field season is in full swing. Please take the time to WORK SAFELY and THINK SAFETY—at work and at home. In '94 let us keep a renewed commitment to that important goal—safety is no accident.

Thank you.

Ed Meadows

### DOC People

#### New Hires

- **David Dirsa**, Forest Ranger II, Forest Fire Control, Jefferson
- **Kathleen LaPierre**, Clerk Typist II Forest Fire Control, Augusta

#### Transfers

- **Jon Blackstone**, Forest Ranger II, Forest Fire Control, Masardis to Chesuncook
- **Leland Griffin**, Park Manager II at Lake St. George from Lamaine State Park
- **Mike Leighton**, Park Manager III at Sebago Lake from Assistant Regional Supervisor
- **Susan Myers**, Forest Ranger II, Forest Fire Control; Chesuncook to Weld
- **Joseph Pelletier**, Forest Ranger II, Forest Fire Control, Benton to Waldo

#### Promotion

- **Tim Spahr**, Environmental Specialist II, LURC, Rangeley

### Poster Contest Awards Presented Tomorrow

Twenty-four students in grades K-12 from throughout the state will receive awards and prizes tomorrow for creating posters and slogans on the theme: "Show your support for Maine's state parks and endangered wildlife: choose the conservation license plate."

The awards will be presented during a State House ceremony in the Hall of Flags by Governor McKernan, Commissioner Meadows, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Ray Owen and Bureau of Parks and Recreation Director Herb Hartman.

The poster contest was sponsored by the DOC and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to increase awareness of Maine's new conservation plate.

### "Friends" Help BPR

Bureau of Parks and Recreation staff, particularly those associated with historic sites, have been working extensively with friends groups, which have formed to support the operations of six historic sites managed by the bureau. The work of the friends groups has already brought significant results. The Friends of Fort Knox and the Friends of Montpelier are setting their sights on raising funds and volunteer services to accomplish substantial capital improvement projects. The Friends of Fort Edgecomb have sponsored several special events and will be producing a new visitor brochure for the site. The Friends of Peary's Eagle Island have produced a public information brochure for the island that will be distributed to visitors. The newly formed Friends of Colonial Pemaquid are helping to organize a special event at Colonial Pemaquid to celebrate the site's recent designation as a National Historic Landmark. These groups are stretching the resources of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation by helping to do those projects that enhance visitor experiences but are beyond the means of the bureau's operational budget. Friends groups have also been very successful in tapping other resources to aid these facilities and making the historic sites a more integral part of the local community.

Sheila McDonald

### Thanks To The ISTC

The computer upgrade project described in the April *Bulletin* has been accomplished. The department is now operating on the new pc-based system.

The new system allows us to take advantage of the latest computer software technology. The new system allows us to share information as a department as never before. This includes field offices such as LURC's which are being connected to the system by electronic mail. Other bureaus are upgrading field office systems as well.

The department owes a great deal of thanks to the Information System Technical Committee (ISTC) for helping the department make the transition to the new system. ISTC members are: Dick Arbour and Jim Rea, Administrative Services; Tom Wood, Forestry; Dave Mercier, LURC; Marc Loisselle, Geology; John Titus, Parks; and Carol DiBello, Public Lands.

## Conservation Notes

■ **Ed Meadows** and **Tom Morrison** attended the Eastern Lands and Resource Council (ELRC) spring meeting in May. The meeting provided an opportunity to hear representatives from federal resource agencies speak on ecosystem management and how it is being implemented.

Commissioner Meadows was elected a council vice-president. The ELRC is the association of natural resource commissioners and public lands managers from states east of the Mississippi. The purpose of the organization is to share information and techniques for enhanced management on public lands, discuss issues, national legislation, budget and other matters common to all states, and to promote partnerships of the states with public and private organizations.

Commissioner Meadows was also named chair of ELRC's Committee on Partnerships and Collaboration. Tom Morrison will serve on the committee with members from six other states.

■ **Susan Bell, Dave Boulter, Herb Hartman, Don Mansius, Ed Meadows, Tom Morrison, Steve Wight** and **Joe Wiley** attended a two-day conference on forest biodiversity hosted by various forest and environmental interest groups. Participants sought to understand each others perspectives and establish common ground as the dialogue on this subject continues.

■ BPR Park Managers **Leland Griffin, Phil Farr, Stewart Wagner, and Brian Murray** and Park Ranger **Joe Powers** recently completed a one-week OSHA standards training course. The course was conducted by the Bureau of Labor in Caribou.

■ Many DOC lands are featured in IF&W's new publication, *On Water, On Wings, and in the Woods.- A Guide For Maine Wildlife Watchers*. Numerous BPR staff made suggestions for the book and **Patty Bailey** served on the steering committee to review suggestions and make final selections. Park managers **Dan Bell, Andy Hutchinson, Gary Stellplug, Gordon Bell, Shirley Clark, Terry Cole, Frank Appleby, Phil Farr, Leland Griffin, Stuart Wagner, Scott Thompson, Andy Haskell, Bob Hunt, and Mike Wilusz** identified areas in their parks where wildlife watching opportunities exist. Regional supervisors **Bill Cleaves, Ken Wiley, and Tim Hall** provided information during proofreadings.

■ CCCM Team Leader **Alison Hramic** was selected to serve on a federal grant review panel.

■ **Don Cote, Gordon Moore, Charles Corliss** and **Tim Spahr** of the Land Use Regulation Commission's Enforcement Division have been offering presentations on the commission's timber harvesting and road construction standards to logging contractors and operators throughout the commission's jurisdiction as part of the Certified Logging Professional program.

■ Bureau of Parks and Recreation Southern Region Assistant Supervisor **Scott Woodruff** and Reid State Park Manager **Dan Bell** provided First Aid and CPR training to 16 CCCM corpsmembers at Sebago Lake State Park.

■ CCCM Corpsmember **Korah Soll** will be serving an internship as assistant director for the Maine Conservation Corps this summer. Her previous experience as an MCC corpsmember on projects in BPL's Bigelow Management Unit and Baxter State Park will bring new insight into operating the program. Korah also volunteered at Lake George Regional Park during its first summer of operation. She has been a member of the CCCM since January.

■ **Ken Spalding** reports that the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) has been awarded a \$107,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The grant will enable the MCC to establish and operate six community youth gardens in the Portland and Augusta areas. The program is part of President Clinton's "Summer of Safety" initiative. MCC teams will focus on developing and operating six organic gardens while working on graffiti removal, trail rehabilitation and other community service projects. **Alice Elliot** of Sidney will coordinate the Community Youth Gardens program. For further information on the program please contact Alice at 287-4931.

■ **Ken Spalding** developed a proposal to restore SERVE/Maine as an active volunteer agency recruiting, placing and supporting volunteers with agencies statewide. The proposal was submitted to Maine's Commission on Community Service. Grant award decisions are expected from the commission in June, with final selections from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service in August.

■ BPR's **Steve Curtis** says he is pleased with the sale of Conservation Registration plates. Financial reports in late May verify the sale of ten thousand pairs of "loon plates." Some news paper articles have reported total sales of nearly three times that amount.

## Your Good Ideas Are Worth Cash!

The Employee Suggestion Award Program has been revitalized! Come up with an idea to save \$100,000 and take home \$10,000. From now until June 30, 1995, the cash award for adopted suggestions is ten percent of the first year's savings or \$10,000, whichever is less. Contact DOC's Suggestion Coordinator Judy Andrews at 72214 for application forms and assistance.

## Conservation School Scholarships Available

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is sponsoring two, one-week sessions for girls and boys 12 to 14 at the Maine Conservation School at Bryant Pond.

The department is offering \$120 scholarships to 120 campers to offset the \$150 regularly charged tuition fee. Campers who receive a scholarship pay only \$30 and are required to submit a current physical examination form to participate in a fun-filled conservation education experience. There are no prerequisites for scholarships except applicants must have a strong interest in wildlife and the out-of-doors.

The two, one-week sessions will run from July 10 through 15, and July 17 through 22, 1994. Sixty students will be selected on a first-come first-served basis for each week-long session. Please contact the school directly for more information and an application form at: Fish and Wildlife Scholarship Sessions, Maine Conservation School, P.O. Box 188, Bryant Pond, Maine 04219; 207/665-2068.

## Trails Day Activities Planned

The Bureau of Public Lands will team up with the Army National Guard and the Maine Conservation Corps to celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 4, 1994 with a helicopter airlift of timber for public access trails on the Cutler Coast Management Unit in Cutler.

The timber will be used to build a half-mile of bog bridges on the 2,100 acre parcel that was acquired by the Land For Maine's Future Program and assigned to BPL for management in 1990.

BPL Forester George Ritz and Outdoor Recreation Planner Steve Spencer worked with College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) Team Leaders Rich Bouchard, Tom Bradbury, Alison Hramiec and their crews to design and flag the trails during a two-week project. A CCCM and an MCC crew will develop the trail system. When finished in 2-3 years, the Cutler trail will be longest coastal trail in Maine.