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

Maine Department of Conservation

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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information July 1994

## BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

### Commissioner's Column

Summer is a good time for Maine's citizens and visitors as they travel throughout the state to gain new appreciation for the role our department programs play in all facets of Maine's economy and quality of life. News stories will focus on tourism spending and enjoyment of the lands and waters which support our major industries.

This year, with the large number of candidates running for office at all levels, there should be new opportunities for discussing the role natural resources will play in Maine's future. Curiously, however, during the primaries, while there was a great deal of talk about jobs and the economy—there was almost no mention of natural resources.

Obviously, natural resources are major factors in our economy now and will continue to be so in the future. In past editions, I have emphasized the jobs, income, valued-added nature-based tourism, and other contributions natural resources make to our state. Perhaps of greater implication is that as jobs decline in other sectors of Maine's economy due to the closing of Loring, defense cut-backs at Kittery, Bath and other facilities, corporate downsizing and other factors, the percentage of jobs dependent on natural resources is likely to increase. This will be true even if there is no increase in natural resource-based employment.

However, there are plenty of opportunities for increasing natural resource employment. Many possibilities are under review by private interests and public agencies, and many programs in our department are involved in encouraging a variety of these opportunities and providing information and technical assistance to them. To be sure, there are problems these resources face as well—the potential closing of the Ft. Fairfield biomass plant, the decline in commercial fishing, concern over harvesting practices and so on. These need to be addressed—and again our de-

partment programs are involved in doing this.

I can think of no better way to make solid investments in a desirable future for Maine than to support development and growth of sustainable natural resource-based industries whose raw material come from resources managed and produced in an environmentally sound fashion. This needs to happen with greater emphasis on quality and value-added products—not just on large quantities of commodity products which are subject to intense global price competition. With the growing world-wide demand for quality products and for goods and services produced in environmentally-responsible ways, there are many opportunities for new investments and jobs in finance, production, marketing, transportation and services. There's no reason why these should not happen in our state. The candidates have an opportunity to encourage these options as ways of helping address the concerns Maine people have about jobs.

Each of us can play our own role by discussing the opportunities with our acquaintances and talking about what our programs do that support the state.

Again best wishes to all of you for a safe and productive field season.

**Ed Meadows**

### Carol Michel Leaves DOC

Deputy Commissioner Carol Michel has announced she will leave DOC on July 15. Carol leaves state government to work full-time at "The Merchant of Venice," a new Gardiner business owned by Carol and her husband.

Commissioner Meadows said that Carol has been instrumental in establishing TQM in state government and has served the department during two crucial legislative sessions.

Before joining the department in 1992, Carol was deputy director of the State Planning Office.

### DOC Charters First Process Action Team

The Department of Conservation continues to forge ahead in its implementation of Total Quality Management (TQM). The first Process Action Team (PAT) was given its charter at the June 15th meeting of the department's Quality Council. This PAT will focus on communications within the DOC and was selected as a result of the requests that DOC personnel submitted from our March awareness seminar. The mission statement of our communications PAT states:

"The Conservation Intradepartmental Communications Process Action Team will provide recommendations and an implementation strategy that will result in the timely, adequate distribution of two-way communications within the department as a whole, but with emphasis on communications to and from regional offices and field personnel. Included should be recommendations for utilizing available technology and recommended procedures to facilitate timely two-way communications. The team will report progress to the Conservation Quality Management Council on a regular basis."

Team members are Bill Cleaves, Ralph Knoll, Marc Loisel, Dave Wight, Jeannine LaPointe, Pam Tibbetts, Kendall Knowles, Gail Tunstead, Charlie Corliss and Lori Blier.

In other TQM developments, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation is forming a TQM bureau council which BPR hopes to have established in July. The first meeting of the council is planned for August.

In June, the entire staff of the Land Use Regulation Commission focused on team building, work process, and continuous improvement issues during a full-day of TQM training.

## **200 + Attend Colonial Pemaquid Celebration**

Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site in Bristol hosted more than 200 people in a recent ceremony celebrating the designation of Colonial Pemaquid as a National Historic Landmark.

Bureau of Parks and Recreation Director Herb Hartman presided over the ceremony which featured the presentation of a bronze National Historic Landmark plaque by Robert Grumet of the National Park Service. Following the ceremony, guests toured Colonial Pemaquid, sampled colonial refreshments, and listened to music from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Everyone enjoyed the event which reinforced the partnership between the important historic site and the Bristol community.

The Friends of Colonial Pemaquid helped organize the day's events. Colonial Pemaquid staff Dennis Brown, Barry Masterson, Valerie Fossett, Molly Holme, Erika Schnitker, and Scott Bartz-Masterson and Regional Supervisor Tim Hall professionally coordinated logistics and all manner of organizational details to make the day a success. Several former Colonial Pemaquid staff members, namely Brian Murray, John McCone, Bernad Schnitker, Tami Bill, and Russ Lane also took part in the day's events.

## **Bill Galbraith On Environmental Law Panel**

Bill Galbraith, supervisor of the Land Use Regulation Commission Enforcement Division, participated in a panel discussion on "Learning to Live with Environmental Laws: The Administration of Forestry Practices Regulations."

The panel was sponsored by the University of Maine College of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agriculture and was targeted for attendance by private consulting foresters and natural area managers.

## **Fighting Forest Fires In Western States MFS Forest Rangers Provide Aid - Gain Experience**

Large fires in several western states have caused deaths and millions of dollars of damage to homes and resources this year. According to MFS Fire Support Branch Supervisor Harry Doughty forest rangers have answered the call for help (as of 7/6).

- Alan Johnston, the Pigeon fire on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico, safety officer.
- Russ Landry, the Second fire on the Cleveland National Forest, California, safety officer.
- Mark Berube, the Boy Scout fire in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Wyoming, tool and equipment specialist.
- Rick Henion, Eastern Great Basin Communications Center in Salt Lake City, incident dispatch recorder.
- Lance Martin, security officer on the Rattlesnake Fire in Arizona.

Harry says the experience and knowledge gained by these rangers will be a tremendous benefit to the MFS.

Fire activity has been below average in Maine, with just over 300 fires recorded and fewer than a thousand acres burned. Arson and escaped debris burns caused most of the fires.



## **MGS Publishes Report On Beach Dynamics**

The Maine Geological Survey has published a report entitled "Sebago Lake State Park Beach Dynamics: A Report on Results of Beach Profiling." The publication describes the results of a three-year beach erosion study at Sebago Lake State Park, done in cooperation with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The study examines beach profile data to determine the effects of waves, ice, and lake levels on the park's beaches and at Hall's Beach in Raymond.

According to the publication the recreational beaches are generally stable, with no permanent shifts seen in their positions. The study showed that fall storm waves cut notches in the beaches. These notches fill in as the water level rises. Rising spring water levels also smooth over sand ridges created by ice. Water levels go from low in the fall to high in the spring and appear to replenish the supply of sand to the beaches.

## **Phil Farr Attends OWAA Conference**

**Named to Planning Committee For Annual Meeting of New England Outdoor Writers Association**

Holbrook Island Sanctuary manager Phil Farr was an invited guest at the 1994 Outdoor Writers Association of America National Conference held in June at the University of Maine campus.

Phil and his wife, Patricia, were the guests of Ellie Horwitz, chief of Information and Education for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Mrs. Horwitz is also the president of the New England Outdoor Writers Association.

While at the meeting Phil had the chance to discuss conservation issues with writers from all over the United States.

Phil was also invited to be a staff member of the organizing and planning committee for the New England Outdoor Writers Association annual meeting to be held in Maine in 1995 or 1996.



## **1994 Park Ranger and Lifeguard Academy Completed**

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation successfully completed the annual Maine State Park Ranger and Lifeguard Academy, which was held in mid-June. The academy provided mandated training to all new hires, as well as an orientation to Maine's state parks and historic sites, first-aid courses, and life-saving certifications. The programs were held at the State YMCA camp of Maine on Cobbosseecontee Lake in East Winthrop. John Titus directed the programs.

The State Park Lifeguard Academy was established in 1984 by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to train lifeguards in the standards of the bureau and the United States Lifeguard Association (USLA) in operational policies and procedures, use of lifeguard equipment, rescue procedures and CPR. The training established by the academy was mandated by state law in 1987. All lifeguards are required to attend a portion if not all of the Lifeguard Academy to prove that they meet the physical standards established by BPR and the USLA.

## **1994 Maine Conservation Corps Season Underway**

Twenty-one Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) teams began their 1994 summer season on Monday, June 27, with an official kick-off Orientation program at the University of Maine in Augusta on June 28. The Orientation program included teambuilding and environmental education sessions, and an orientation to the various components of the Maine Conservation Corps. 119 Maine youths make-up the teams, which accomplish conservation and public recreation area improvement work for natural resource agencies statewide.

Six MCC teams are working in backcountry residential sites including work projects in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, on the Cutler Coast near Machias, and along the Appalachian Trail near Bethel.

Other MCC projects are located in Maine and Canada, at locations from Roosevelt-Campobello International Park to the Wells Reserve, the Pine Tree State Arboretum to the Saco Heath. Work at these projects includes assembly of boardwalks, bog-bridges, and trail maintenance and design.

A new endeavor for the MCC this summer is the development of community gardens in five Kennebec and Cumberland County towns. In addition to planting the community gardens, the teams will be building and maintaining public trails and removing graffiti from Portland buildings.

All teams will be working for their respective agency for 8-12 weeks throughout the summer.

## **Wolfe's Neck Woods Popular With Schools**

More than 3,470 students participated in programs for school groups this past spring at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport. The programs, which have become part of a traditional trip for many schools in the greater Portland, Brunswick, and Lewiston-Auburn areas, were conducted by Interpretive Specialist Pat Bailey and Park Receptionist Lari Bishop as well as three experienced volunteers.

## **Scott Ramsay Receives International Award**

Scott Ramsay, supervisor of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Off-Road Vehicles Program, recently received an achievement award from the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators. The award was presented to Scott at the annual meeting of the IASA in Prince Edward Island.

When the award was given, Scott was recognized for his dedication and outstanding accomplishments in furthering the sport of snowmobiling.

## **Conservation Notes**

**Will Johnston** represented the Land Use Regulation Commission at the annual St. John River Advisory Committee meeting on the St. John River.

**Charles Corliss, Don Cote and Gordon Moore** of the Land Use Regulation Commission's Enforcement Division participated in instructing students at the University of Maine, College of Forest Resources, in the Commission's timber harvesting and road building standards during the college's summer camp program for junior and senior forestry engineering students.

**Mark Berube and Jay Bernard** have been added to the team of defensive tactics instructors for the Fire Control Division. They will be assistant instructors until they attend the Defensive Tactics Instructor I course at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy next year.

**Bill Williams** ended his involvement with the team last year after playing a major role in bringing this training to the division and then implementing a recurrency training program for all rangers. Bill's hard work and hours of instruction are appreciated by the division.

Profiles of BPL management units are being published in *SAM News*, newsletter of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. The visitor guides, which include information about resource management issues, are prepared by BPL staff and **Marshall Wiebe**, DOC director of public information. Bigelow Preserve was featured in May and Scraggly Lake in July. Duck Lake will be the next area highlighted.

**Dan Skillin, Roddie McLellan and Les Thornton** attended a 2 day professional development course on Arson. The course was offered by the International Association of Arson Investigators.

*Conservation Notes continued on Page 4*

## **AWW Staff Conduct Conservation Education Project**

Allagash Ranger Pat Reardon and Millinocket Girl Scout Troop #575 planted 300 red and white pine at the Horserace Brook campsite in the Penobscot River Corridor.

Troop Leader Susan Caverly, who works for the Allagash region, worked with Pat on this project which helps the scouts gain a greater appreciation of Maine's environment, natural resources and recreation management practices.

The project was initiated by Penobscot River Corridor Manager Matt LaRoche. This is a continuation of other tree planting projects that have been accomplished by AWW staff.

### **Major General Henry Knox Portrayed**

Major General Henry Knox recently paid a visit to his summer homesite, Montpelier, in Thomaston. That is, Bud Jenkins, in the character of General Knox, recently entertained visitors at Montpelier State Historic Site during three performances sponsored by the Friends of Montpelier. Mr. Jenkins, a Denver, Colorado native, has portrayed General Knox and other historic characters at appearances throughout the United States.

### **CCCM Crew Improves Penobscot Campsites**

A College Conservation Corps team began its summer service project on the West Branch of the Penobscot.

The team, led by Richard Bouchard, will be working on shoreline erosion control and campsite rehabilitation projects until the end of July.

Ranger Barry Welch and his wife Sue oriented the crew to the projects and assisted the team in moving into their new "home" on Thoreau Island.

Penobscot River Corridor Manager Matt LaRoche also visited the crew during their first week on site.

## **Rangers Present Field Training in Allagash**

In June, the "hands on" portion of the S130/190 (fire control) course was given in Allagash to local firefighters and forest landowners by Forest Rangers Arnold Martin, Lance Martin, Ritchie Hafford, Mark Berube and Scott Bates. The training was headed up by Arnold Martin who was called out during the training by the Allagash Waterway for assistance in a bonfire incident.

During the exercise, water was successfully pumped from the bottom to the peak of McLean Mt. Students were then given helicopter safety training which included a helicopter ride from Ranger Pilot Scott Bates.

Local fire departments added to the training by bringing federal excess equipment which was obtained for them by the Maine Forest Service. The cooperative effort by everyone made the training program a huge success.

### **AWW Training Held**

Allagash region personnel recently discussed law enforcement procedures and policies, first aid, CPR, hypothermia and management of aggressive behavior during a Churchill Dam training session. Rescue training was taught by Allagash Ranger Kim Lynch and Game Warden Sergeant Dave Allen during a great opportunity to work in a team atmosphere with another agency.

### **Maine Conservation Corps Proposals Selected**

Two MCC grant proposals have been selected by the Maine Commission on Community Service to compete for federal grants. The two proposals were submitted to the federal Corporation for National and Community Service as part of the Commissions proposal in mid-June. The MCC proposal will continue operations of the College Conservation Corps and two local corps and restore the SERVE/Maine program. Final decisions are expected from the Corporation in August.

## **Personnel Notes**

- **Charlene Donohue**, from project position to Entomologist I
- **Esther Hendrickson**, Park Manager I at Warren Island State Park
- **Joseph Pelletier**, Forest Ranger, transfer to Benton

*Conservation Notes continued from page 3*

**Kendall Knowles and John Leavitt** attended a three-day course in June in Concord, New Hampshire on fire operations in the urban interface as part of our Northeast Compact training initiative. **Mark Mayhew** was one of the instructors at this course.

BPR's **Tim Hall** reports that radio station WAVX recently celebrated its second anniversary with an open house at Montpelier State Historic Site. Between 200 and 300 guests visited the museum and offered congratulations to the classical music station.

BPL's revised "Islands on the Coast" brochure has been reprinted and is available.

**Steve Harding** was an instructor for a USDA Forest Service Incident Command System (ICS) course/simulation exercise June 29 and 30 in Providence, Rhode Island. The federal Forest Service asked the Maine Forest Service for instructional help.

Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) crews in conjunction with College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) crews have been developing trails on the BPL's Cutler Unit. The CCCM crew has also been developing trails on the bureau's Donnell Pond Unit.

The DOC has been invited to participate in the first edition of the *Wild Gulf* (of Maine) *Almanac*, an annotated catalog for students, teachers and the public. Three pieces of material from DOC (curricula, activity kits, publications, etc.) will be showcased in the first edition. Contact **Marshall Wiebe**, (74909) with your suggestions.