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

Maine Department of Conservation

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BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

Commissioner's Column

As we have done on occasion in the past, particularly during field season, we are cutting short this column to provide more space to cover activities taking place in the field which deserve recognition.

Two brief items of note to share with you:

- I am pleased to announce that E. Shippen Bright has been appointed deputy commissioner for the department. Shippen has a significant background in human resources and organizational management in the Navy and with his own company, and in natural resources policy development. He has played a key role in the department's legislative program, helped implement and facilitate the department's TQM efforts and leads a number of inter-bureau and inter-departmental task forces on a variety of policy issues. I know you will enjoy working with Ship and that he will be able to provide valuable assistance to us in a number of key areas.
- Beginning with this issue, departmental and bureau TQM news will be a regular feature in the *Bulletin*. There is a lot happening with TQM including PATs, training and bureau activities. Look for news about the work of your peers and co-workers in future issues.

Ed Meadows

Conservation Notes

The Northern Forest Lands Council will present final recommendations to Congress, the governors of Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont and to the public in early September. If you would like a copy of the report, contact **Don Mansius** via E-mail or at 287-4906.

Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) and College Conservation Corps (CCCM) teams continue to develop a new trail system on BPL's Cutler Coast Management Unit. Assisted by Forester **George Ritz** and Outdoor Recreation Specialist **Steve Spencer**, the two teams are developing a coastal trail which when completed will be four miles long, the longest in Maine. The teams, led by **Tom Bradbury**, **Jason Cooke** and **Darryl Tapping**, are also developing remote campsites along the trail. The CCCM assisted in the trail design and initial layout before starting the project in June. The trail is scheduled to be completed in early fall.

Total Quality Management At The DOC

BPR / LURC Forming Quality Councils

As part of the state's TQM initiative, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Land Use Regulation Commission will soon form quality councils.

BPR began the process of forming a council at the spring park managers meeting when many BPR employees received some introductory training in TQM principles. At the meeting, employees agreed that participation on BPR's council would be voluntary (except for ex officio positions) with members selected by their peers. Terms will be staggered and a range of BPR functions represented. Seasonal employees will be represented on a year-round basis, and an external BPR customer will be included.

MSEA members in each of the bureau's four bargaining units are electing council representatives. The balance of the council will consist of five BPR division heads, the bureau's director plus five positions chosen, by consensus, by division heads and other division staff.

LURC is considering an eleven member council representing the range of bureau functions. Participation will be voluntary, field staff will be represented and an external customer may be included. The council will include the four section supervisors and the director. A council member from each of the agency's three bargaining units will be solicited. The remaining four positions will be chosen, by consensus, by supervisors who will consult with other division staff.

BPR and LURC plan to evaluate council composition and organization after one year.

DOC PAT Trains

Members of our first PAT, the Conservation Intradepartmental Communications Process Action Team, began training today in Augusta and will continue to train on the 17th and 18th of August.

This training is important to the success of the PAT as well as an aid to understanding the workings of TQM. Members of the Conservation Quality Management Council will attend today's training and present the PAT charter.

The members of the Communications PAT are Bill Cleaves (BPR), Charles Corliss (LURC), Ralph Knoll (BPL), Kendall Knowles (MFS), Jeannine LaPointe (LURC), Marc Loiselle (MGS), Pam Tibbetts (BPR), Gail Tunstead (BPL), and Dave Wight (MFS). Pending approval, Elaine Burge (ADMIN) will be taking the slot held by Lori Blier.

BPL Sets TQM Meeting Council to be formed

The Bureau of Public Lands will hold a day long TQM training session for all year-round employees in September. The TQM training will be a major part of the bureau's annual fall meeting at the Bigelow Preserve.

The meeting will focus on understanding TQM and how it can be used to improve our ability to perform our jobs. By the end of the session the BPL will have a Quality Management Council with all employees participating in the selection of its members.

Rolanda Klapcheck from the Department of Labor will be the trainer for the session. Earlier this year she conducted a similar, and very successful, session for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation at BPR's spring meeting.

Forest Rangers Assist At Many Western Fires

As of August 2nd, thirteen forest rangers, one aircraft mechanic, and fifteen civilian firefighters were assisting with fire fighting efforts in several western states. Maine number one crew left the state last week and has been working on the Henry Peak Fire in western Montana. Latest reports indicate nearly 8,000 acres have been destroyed. All crew members are doing well. Maine number one is comprised of fifteen civilian firefighters and five forest rangers. Rangers presently out west include: Mike Ricci, Garnett Robinson, Kendall Knowles, Jeff Currier, Tom Martin, Arnold Martin, Alan Johnston, Dan Skillins, Matthew Gomes, Richie Hafford, Scott Bates, Bill Greaves, and Ken Wing along with aircraft mechanic Ray Hichborn. When the *Bulletin* was being prepared on August 4, additional rangers had been requested for service in western states. The requests for assistance were expected to continue with some rangers making more than one trip.

Tom Parent expressed his sincere appreciation to all who help mobilize crews and rangers for western forest fires. He says excellent Maine crews are put together in a relatively short time because of the exceptional efforts of employees.

DOC People

- Forest Ranger **Brad Barrett** of Moscow, transferred to Assistant District Ranger in Norridgewock.
- **Lori Blier**, promoted to Information System Support Specialist, MDOT, Augusta, from Clerk Steno III, DOC, Augusta

Top Finishers in Lifeguard Tests Listed

As reported in the last issue of the *Bulletin*, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation successfully completed its annual lifeguard and ranger academies, which were both held in June at the YMCA camp in East Winthrop.

According to academy rosters, sixty people at the ranger academy were trained in standard first aid and seventy-five received new employee orientation covering state personnel policies, mandatory hazardous materials and bloodborne pathogen information, and an overview of Maine's state park system.

A total of forty-one individuals attended the Lifeguard Academy and participated in required proficiency testing. Congratulations to the top male and female finishers in each category who are:

1.4 Mile Run

First Year, Surf: Jason Dugal (Reid) Kristen Plummer (Crescent Beach); First Year, Flatwater, David McCluskey (Sebago Lake), Julie Quimby (Swan Lake). Returning, Surf, Seth Thornton (Reid), Wynne Elliott (Crescent Beach); Returning, Flatwater, Ken Smith (Lake St. George), Alison Morse (Swan Lake).

500 Yard Open Water Swim

First Year, Surf: Jason Dugal (Reid), Rachel Kidman (Crescent Beach); First Year, Flatwater: David McCluskey (Sebago Lake), Michelle Gagne (Range Ponds). Returning, Surf: Jeff Winslow (Reid), Wynne Elliott (Crescent Beach); Returning, Flatwater: Shawn Leonard (Damariscotta Lake), Penny Robinson (Sebago Lake).

500 Yard Paddleboard

First Year, Surf: Jason Dugal (Reid), Kristen Plummer (Crescent Beach); First Year, Flatwater: David McCluskey (Sebago Lake), Michelle Gagne (Range Ponds). Returning, Surf: Ray Gaul (Popham Beach), Wynne Elliott (Crescent Beach); Returning Flatwater: Shawn Leonard (Damariscotta Lake), Laurie Rybicki (Sebago Lake).

Governor's Employee Recognition Week Set

Parks, Public Lands and the Geological Survey will staff exhibits on September 7 at Capital Park during 1994 Governor's Employee Recognition Week.

Conservation Notes

Continued from front

■ Former Forest Commissioner **Austin Wilkins** was a featured speaker during Smokey Bear's 50th birthday celebration in Bar Harbor yesterday. The Maine Forest Service, Acadia National Park Service, and Bar Harbor Fire Department hosted the public event.

■ When a newly erected trail gate at Camden Hills State Park disappeared, park staff had little hope it would be recovered. But thanks to the efforts of a local constable, the gate is back in place, protecting the park's extensive trail system. Park Manager **Gordon Bell** credits the return of the gate to the hard work of **Rick Osgood**, a Lincolnville constable who spent lots of time investigating and talking to local youth.

■ **Smokey Bear** has been working with United Cerebral Palsy helping to raise much needed funds at this year's Bangor State Fair. The Fire Control Division plans to continue to work with this organization during the coming months.

■ The park staff at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site are pleased to offer a new customer service. According to Park Manager **Dennis Brown**, ranger-led facility tours will be offered at 1:30 p.m. daily throughout the summer operating season. Previously, guided tours were offered to groups by appointment. If you can't make it at 1:30 not to worry. The grounds and museum exhibits at Colonial Pemaquid are self-guided, and staff are available between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to answer your questions.

■ "Gettin' Tha-ah Without a Cah" is what a series of fall workshops being organized by **John Picher** of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and **Margaret Vanderbroek** of the Department of Transportation are all about. John says the information gathered during the state-wide series is needed for Maine's State Trails Plan. If you want to put your oar in at a workshop, give John a call at 72524.

■ Partnerships continue to develop in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The staff at **Reid State Park** recently completed and installed a set of special traps designed to capture greenheads, an aggressive and abundant species of biting horsefly. Material for these traps was purchased by the neighboring Indian Point Association, the members of which will also benefit from the traps.

■ A public service announcement produced by WGME-TV for the Fire Control Division has been nominated by the station for the Broderon Award, given annually for outstanding public service spots. The 30 second PSA was shot in Gulf Hagas near Katahdin Iron Works and deals with a careless smoker according to Fire Prevention Specialist **Jim Downie**.

■ **1-800-987-0257** is the number to call to report wildfire arson. The Maine Forest Service announced the new number to enlist greater public involvement in reporting and preventing arson, especially in areas of the state where it has been a persistent problem for many years. The Maine State Police are assisting with the program by answering all incoming calls from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. One third of Maine's forest fires this year have been caused by arsonists.

■ **Joe Kelley** and **Steve Dickson** of the Maine Geological Survey led a trip for the summer meeting of the Geological Society of Maine. The subject of the trip was "Sand dynamics and engineering structures in Saco and Wells Bays". Participants spent the night at a group campsite in Sebago Lake State Park.

■ **Julie Flanagan**, manager of Swan Lake State Park, joins with other park managers in asking visitors to "please don't feed the ducks." Wild ducks are quite common at many lakeshore parks, and are often attracted to the snacks tossed their way by park visitors. But these ducks can also be carriers of a parasite that can cause swimmer's itch in humans. The bureau's goal to separate human from feathered swimmers without offending either is complicated by the fact that the ducks won't listen to the lifeguard.

■ Range Pond State Park Manager **Gordeen Skolfield** skillfully handled a recent inquiry about swimmer's itch from the *Lewiston Sun Journal*. "The rumors start about this time every year. They are just that- rumors. We've had no confirmed cases of swimmers itch," Gordeen responded. Gordeen explained to the reporter how ducks spread swimmer's itch. "We take steps to keep ducks and geese away from the beach and we test the water in three places along the beach every month."

To reduce the chance of getting swimmer's itch, Gordeen offers two suggestions: 1. Apply suntan or baby oil before entering the water. It makes the skin slippery and discourages attachment of the parasite. 2. "Towel-off" quickly.