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

Maine Department of Conservation

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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information December 1994

## BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

### Commissioner's Column

This is an important time for Maine—a time of transition for the executive branch of state government and of sweeping change for the legislature. It is a time of expectation and uncertainty, and also a time of great opportunity.

Governor-elect King has expressed interest in emphasizing the importance of natural resources in economic development. He has personal experience with natural resource issues and in a forest products related business.

We are committed to assist the new administration with a smooth transition and to ensure DOC perspectives are well represented. We have provided the governor-elect with information about DOC's priorities, goals and key issues. We are working with new legislators and leadership and we will continue to play an important support role as we build for Maine's future.

The public and the media are expressing new recognition over the need for capital investments in our parks and other facilities. The change in the legislature—with nearly half the members being new—provides opportunities to work together on this continuing need.

The economy has stabilized and the forest products industry is doing well in Maine for the first time in several years. I am optimistic about Maine's future and the role the state's natural resources will play in it. That is not to say that all the issues we face in the state will be easily and quickly resolved. But renewed interest in our natural resources presents an important opportunity for DOC programs.

Your suggestions for communicating the importance of natural resource programs, and your ideas for improving the quality of our services are always welcome.

Thanks to each of you for a job well done this year. It is refreshing to hear, as I often do, "you work for DOC? Yes, they do a good job."

Thank you also for your support of the MSECCA campaign. We achieved more than one-hundred and thirty-eight percent of our goal. The campaign ends today.

A big "thank you" is due to Gale Ross who spearheaded DOC's successful 1994 MSECCA effort.

My very best wishes to each of you for the holiday season and the coming year.

*Ed Meadows*

### TQM NEWS

#### FY 94-5 TQM \$ Released

\$70,917 available to the department through TQM legislation has been released by the Budget Office according to Karen Michaud, DOC business manager.

The department council voted to use most of the money to support bureau TQM start-up costs, and to continue improvements in departmental communications begun with last year's TQM allocation of \$32,367.

The council voted to use the FY '94-5 money to support DOC's Communications PAT and the activities of PATs that may be chartered in 1995; to support the formation, training and expenses of bureau councils; to give field employees improved access to the department's information system; to purchase additional capital equipment and software to enhance communications; and to publish and distribute two issues of *Maine Forests Parks and Lands*.

#### Quality Council Meetings Set

- DOC - 12/14
- LURC - 12/14
- Admin. Services - 12/15
- BPR - 12/15
- BPL - 12/20

### DOC People

#### Transfers

- Gordon Ringrose, Clerk II, MFS, Augusta; from Pineland Center

#### Promotions

- Michael Demarest, Environmental Specialist II, LURC; from Pineland Center
- Mike Wilusz, Lily Bay SP manager, to Assistant Regional Supervisor, BPR Central Region

#### New Hires

- Roger Ryder, Forester II, MFS
- David Spicer, Landscape Architect II, MFS
- Peter Beringer, Forester I, MFS
- James Blanck, Chief Planner, MFS

#### Reemployment

- Geraldine Lovely, Clerk I, MFS, Old Town

#### Acting

- Robert McKee has been named Acting Supervisor of LURC's Enforcement Division for the duration of Bill Galbraith's tenure as Acting Director.

#### REMINDER

Open enrollment for setting aside pre-tax income for IRS qualified medical and dependent care ends on December 20, 1994. Contact Personnel/Payroll in Augusta for more information.

### Conservation Notes

The telephone number for the department's new teletypewriter (TTY) is 287-2213 according to Deputy Commissioner **Ship Bright**. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the number should be included with all newspaper advertisements, along with other standard information the papers already have.

Forest Stewardship Committee public service announcements (PSAs) made through **Dennis Brennan's** leadership are airing on TV and radio. Management and Utilization Division Forester **Merle Ring** updated new brochures for the Stewardship Incentive and Forest Stewardship Assistance programs.

A television PSA on Christmas trees and wreath tips featuring Ranger **Lance Martin** has been airing on several stations this fall.

A farewell party for **David Boulter**, former LURC director, was held at the Days Inn in Augusta. Commissioners, LURC staff and Department of Conservation co-workers extended good cheer and best wishes to David in his new job.

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation debuted at the Bangor Mall during the weekend after Thanksgiving by selling T-shirts, hats, season passes, and gift certificates. Organized by **Lin Gosselin**, the mall appearance promoted state parks and the loon license plate. "Maine - A Natural Treasure" T-shirts and hats were sold to holiday shoppers searching for gift ideas. The weekend was a big success with more than 150 T-shirts and hats sold. In addition to Lin, the BPR sales table was staffed by **Judie Bridges, Patty Bailey, Frank Appleby, and Leland Griffin**. An extra bonus of the effort was television coverage by two Bangor stations.

**Sue Welch**, wife of Penobscot River Corridor Ranger **Barry Welch**, has been commended for volunteer work on the Penobscot. Sue was presented with a plaque by Corridor Manager **Matt LaRoche** who noted Sue's contribution of more than 4,000 hours during her six years of volunteer service. Matt had high praise for Sue, noting her hard work in shingling roofs, clearing trails, and cleaning campsites.

MFS Forester **Ancyl Thurston** reports that at October's end, the U.S. Forest Service had completed 66 percent of resurvey plots in Washington County, 63 percent in Aroostook County and 79 percent in Penobscot County. Aroostook is not expected to be completed in 1994; Penobscot and Washington Counties may be. Snow permitting, crews will work until about December 16th. A small staff will work through the winter. Plot location assistance is being provided by Insect & Disease Mgt. Div. (I&DMD) staff **Skip Cram, Mike Devine, Jody Connor, Grayln Smith, Mike Skinner, and Dave Stewart.**

The recently trained include: **Ellen Farese, Will Johnston and Henry Nichols**, LURC; **Tom Charles, Tom Driscoll and Dave Struble**, MFS; **Steve Dickson**, MGS; and **Don Mansius**, Admin. Services - ARC/View geographic information system software;

**Peter Bouchard**, MFS-PROGRESS Database;

**Jack Dirkman**, BPL - supervisory developments for forestry personnel courses, Maritime Forest Ranger School, New Brunswick, Canada.

State Entomologist **Dave Struble** attended a national forest health monitoring meeting in Florida. Dave advises that a new hemlock looper assessment report is available from the I&DMD.

**Jeanne Knobil** of MFS reports that a \$1,000 grant to Project Learning Tree has been given to the Pine Tree State Arboretum and China Middle School for outdoor classroom projects.

Montpelier State Historic Site in Thomaston, bedecked with holiday trim by the Friends of Montpelier, will be lighted nightly through the holidays according to BPR's **Tim Hall.**

Plaudits to MFS Management and Utilization Division (M&UD) Forester **Jim McMullen** for managing the Urban Forestry Program for five months while also maintaining his regular work. Jim created a new grant filing system, set up a required U.S. Forest Service program review field tour and offered valuable suggestions for the program's future.

The BPR and MFS will cooperatively manage 600 acres around Little Concord Pond in Woodstock. Acquired from P.H. Chadbourne in 1974, the deed calls for management by BPR and MFS. M&UD Forester **Merle Ring** will work on this project.

**Peter Lammert**, utilization forester for the M&UD, attended a meeting of the Northeast Mulch Association. Peter helped form the two-year old association that promotes mulch products via a self-imposed product levy. Pete estimates last year's gross business volume at \$25 million.

**Bill Elliott**, manager of Peaks-Kenny State Park, reports that all wood buildings in the park were painted or stained in '94. In addition, several miles of roadsides were brushed back, and ditches and culverts were restored to original designs. Four interpretive panels for Katahdin Iron Works were refinished and Park Receptionist **Jerilynne Berneche**, developed a self-guided hike along an existing trail. Jerilynne also led guided hikes every Saturday during the summer.

Peaks-Kenny also benefited from nearly 1,000 hours of no-cost labor by participants of the Summer Youth Training and Employment Program and the Maine Aspire Program, who maintained grounds, cleaned campsites, and assisted with other park tasks.

Forest Ranger **Jeff Courier** of Wesley recently appeared on WLBZ television news. Reporter **Julia Bovey** interviewed Courier as he enforced wreath tipping and other laws. This year, rangers seized nearly three tons of wreath brush and charged more than twenty people with violating state wreath tipping and Christmas tree law.

Forest Rangers **Doug Getchell** and **Jerry Parsons** have recently been involved in timber trespass cases. The rangers acted as mediators and helped landowners recover monetary settlements totaling \$7,000. The rangers worked very closely with Washington and Penobscot County district attorneys. Doug and Jerry agree that out-of-court settlement is usually better for all parties.

Ranger **Dan Skillin's** arson investigation led to the arrest and indictment of a Woolwich man in connection with a fire this October in Dresden. Persons convicted of class A arson face up to 40 years in prison.

BPL held a Nahmakanta Unit management plan advisory committee meeting in Dover-Foxcroft last night according to **Craig Ten Broeck**. The draft will be available for public review prior to a public meeting on the plan this winter.

Information System Technical Committee (ISTC) members **Jim Rea, Marc Loiselle, Dick Arbour, Tom Wood, Will Harris, Carol**

**DiBello, John Titus and Dave Mercier** are updating a draft strategic plan to guide DOC's growing computer system. The draft will be reviewed by bureaus before adoption.

Due to lack of adequate space and poor air quality in the old BPL Old Town office, renovations to the conference room in the main building have been made in order to meet the bureau's needs. The telephone number and address have not changed. The upgraded entrance on the side of the building should be used to reduce traffic through the Forest Service office.

According to bureau Director **Tom Morrison**, the old BPL office space will be converted into a conference room after renovations are completed. Construction for the new conference room center will soon be underway.

Retired Forest Ranger **Asa Markey** of Greenville passed away on November 27. Markey worked over 25 years in the Greenville and Chesuncook areas. Several present and past rangers attended funeral services.

The Maine Forest Service and the state of Maine will be recognized tomorrow by the U.S. Forest Service for contributions this year in fighting forest fires in several western states. **Governor John McKernan** will accept the award during a ceremony in the Hall of Flags at the State House.

**Woody Thompson** (MGS) and **Craig Ten Broeck** (BPL) visited the site of an interesting mineral discovery on state land in T10SD where smoky quartz and feldspar crystals were found lining the walls of small cavities in a granite ledge.

The MGS has completed the first volume of the "Mineralogy of Maine", containing hundreds of pages of text and photos describing every mineral species in the state. The book is now in press and should be available this winter.

Also, a CREST Earth Science Education Project video entitled "Maine's Mineral Resources" has been completed with the assistance of the UMF media center and will soon be available to teachers. It covers the full range of Maine's past and present mineral production, including metal deposits, sand and gravel, gems and stone products such as Monson slate.

State Controller **David Bourne** has requested photos of Maine's public lands, state parks and historic sites to illustrate the state's Financial Report for the last fiscal year.