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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information Bulletin, February 1995

Maine Department of Conservation

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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information February 1995

## BULLETIN

FORESTRY

GEOLOGY

LAND USE REGULATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

PUBLIC LANDS

### Commissioner's Column

In his February 1 budget address to the legislature, Governor King conveyed his strong feelings that natural resource agencies "have already suffered a disproportionate share of cuts in past budgets and simply cannot carry the burden of further deep cuts this time around."

The budget document was not available as we prepared the February BULLETIN, however we are aware of Governor King's support for natural resources in his proposed budget which:

- provides the department's full FY 96/97 Part 1 request. If the budget is adopted by the legislature, this means that for the first time in several years, **we will not have to absorb increased operating costs through program reductions.** This is welcome support which helps stabilize our programs.
  - restores to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation funds from the sale of loon license plates. The money was deappropriated in FY 94-95.
- The governor proposed a number of items affecting departments and state employees which you will be hearing more about. Notable proposals of interest to our department include:
- funding for the full cost of employee salaries and benefits with no more shut down days, furlough days, shortened work weeks or pay delays;
  - reduction of five-hundred positions over two years, primarily through attrition with the savings applied to collective bargaining;
  - \$5 million per year to begin a program of improved capital maintenance of state facilities; and
  - support for technology, innovation and TQM.

I am pleased to report that I have appointed Tom Doak acting director of the Bureau of Forestry. Tom replaces Sue Bell who has joined Governor King's staff. The department is well represented in the new administration with former DOC Director of Administrative Services Janet Waldron nominated as commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

During eight years at DOC, Sue made many contributions and achievements to the leadership and management of the department. She served as deputy commissioner, director of the Maine Forest Service and she played a key role in leading implementation of the state Geographic Information System, our legislative program, affirmative action and helped Maine receive the first National Community Services Act grant to a state. We are pleased that her abilities have been recognized by this appointment to an important position in the administration.

**Ed Meadows**

### DOC TQM At A Glance

• The Conservation Quality Management Council, at its February 1 meeting, discussed the critical need to provide information about council meetings to all employees. Following lengthy discussion, the council agreed to ask our Communications PAT to recommend ways to ensure that information about every CQMC meeting is available to every employee. The distribution of this information is currently the responsibility of bureaus. Information gathered from Bureau of Public Lands' employees on their preferences for receiving the CQMC meeting information will be available to the PAT. The CQMC meets again on March 1.

• The Bureau of Parks and Recreation Quality Management Council will meet on February 15 to discuss TQM principles and begin the bureau's vision.

• The Land Use Regulation Commission Quality Management Council will also meet on February 15 to discuss ground rules and begin work on vision.

• The Administrative Services Quality Management Council has completed three sessions and is working on the unit's vision. Next meeting to be scheduled.

• The Bureau of Public Lands Quality Management Council continues work on the bureau's vision on February 17.

### Results of Harlow Building Security Survey Available

Fifty-two Harlow Building employees responded to a survey of their security concerns. Twenty employees said they were concerned about personal security when leaving or entering the building, primarily after dark; thirty-two were not concerned. Forty of fifty employees who responded said they were not concerned about security while in the building. The need for better outside lighting, a central reception area, information about security procedures and a building access card system were among employee suggestions for improving building security. Complete survey results and more information can be obtained from John Picher.

### Conservation Notes

The Internet is a global system linking computers and computer networks. Thanks to **Dick Arbour, Marc Loiselle and Jim Rea**, the department is one of the first five state agencies listed on Maine's home page on the World Wide Web, a fast growing section of the Internet. Using special software, computer users around the world can now read about Maine Department of Conservation programs. Each bureau, as well as the DOC, has a separate home page containing basic information and a representative picture of bureau activities. The connection to the Internet is at the Division of Data Processing.

**Tom Morrison and George Ritz** recently presented a Certificate of Accomplishment to **Tom Bradbury** of the College Conservation Corps. The certificate was awarded in recognition of the outstanding trail work accomplished by Bradbury and **Jay Cook's** crews at BPL's Cutler Coast Unit.

**Tom Cieslinski** reports that BPR has received almost 500 returned bicycle surveys out of 2,000 sent to a random sample of Maine households selected from the motor vehicle registration list. Respondents are asking for wider and paved shoulders to accommodate bicyclists, walkers and joggers. The survey, along with a walking/jogging survey, was done as part of a joint BPR/DOT study regarding bicycling and other trail needs in Maine. A summary of comments by those receiving the survey has been prepared.

The Fire Control Division through the Federal Excess Property Program has obtained six UH-1H helicopters. All are expected to be in Maine by mid-February. According to Chief Pilot **John Knight**, at least two of the six are in extremely good condition and could be used as first line aircraft. The rest may be used for parts.

Maine's first joint Law Enforcement Academy involving forest rangers, fish and wildlife wardens, marine patrol officers, fire marshals and Passamaquoddy wardens began on January 3 and will conclude with graduation ceremonies on March 3. Thirteen newly hired officers are enrolled in the 320 hour course certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. District Forest Ranger



**Bruce Small** and IF&W Warden **Dan Carroll** are academy cadres. According to **Leslie Wiles**, nearly five years of planning made this joint training venture a reality.

BPR's O&M Division was recently recognized by the American Red Cross for its commitment to first aid training in the past year. The division currently has eight certified instructors who deliver this training state-wide to the over 300 field and office staff each year. In 1995, the cadre will be working toward providing training in infant and child CPR. Cadre - **Scott Woodruff, Jay McIntosh, Dan Bell, John Titus, John Scott, Ralph Wilkinson, Joe Powers, Frank Appleby.**

**Woody Thompson** and **Bob Johnston** (MGS) are leading this spring's 58th annual field conference of the northeast section of Friends of the Pleistocene, which is being hosted by the MGS. Glacial geologists from throughout the northeast and eastern Canada will visit sites in the Portland-Sebago Lake region including Sebago Lake State park. The May trip will highlight mapping work done by MGS for the STATEMAP co-op with the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as Bob's thesis work on Sebago Lake.

Rangers continue to respond to timber trespass complaints from around the state. Last year, the Forest Service fielded over 600 complaints from angry landowners, who believed timber had been illegally harvested from their properties.

Work continues on the Sebago campground project. **Steve Barden, Bob Webb, Scott Woodruff, Mike Leighton, Ron Hunt,** and **Tom Skolfield**, all of whom are the bureau's reps on the design review committee met with the firm that is working on the project to firm up the design thus far. We are happy with the progress at this point.

Fire Prevention Specialist **Jim Downie** was recently elected to the board of the Maine Fire Prevention Resource Exchange. The organization shares information and develops solutions to fire and safety issues in Maine.

The Fire Control Division and the Department of Environmental Protection are working on public service announcements on air quality issues associated with debris burning.

The Garden Club of Maine and the Fire Control Division are working jointly on a state-wide fire prevention poster contest. The contest will be open to all students

in grades 1-5, including public, private and home schooled children. An awards ceremony is planned during Forest Fire Awareness Week in April.

The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission held several training sessions and meetings in Portland last week. Fire officials from seven northeast states and the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick attended. Many attendees took part in a simulated forest fire, involving the incident command system. Forest Rangers **Bruce Reed** and **Kenny Wing** have been instrumental in developing this exercise. Ranger **Mark Mayhew** will also teach a course.

Management and Utilization employees **Roger Ryder, Kathy Nitschke, Geneva Duncan** and **Dave Rochester** conducted Forest Practices Act training for forest rangers in January. **Geneva Duncan** also held forestry informational meetings across Washington County.

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Supervisor **Tim Caverly** has presented College Conservation Corps Team Leader **Rich Bouchard** with a plaque expressing the bureau's appreciation of the work on the waterway accomplished by Bouchard and his team members.

**Peter Lammert** spoke on marketing at a woodlot harvesting meeting sponsored by Extension, SWOAM and MFS.

**Tom Whitworth** made forestry presentations for the Society of American Foresters Poster Contest for Aroostook area school classes.

A mailing to all municipalities on the availability of the 1995 Small Business Administration Community Tree Planting Grants has been completed, according to **Dave Spicer**. The SBA Program requires a minimum 50/50 cost share. A total of \$66,741 of grant funds is available through this program.

**Brian Bronson**, BPR and **Ron Bennett** from DIF&W, instructed thirteen International Paper Company employees at Clayton Lake on ATV and snowmobile safety.

Lack of snow at coastal parks has made cross-country skiing difficult so far this winter. But trail managers at Reid, Lake St. George and Camden Hills remain optimistic that good skiing may be yet to come. We remind skiers to call ahead for snow condition reports, using the department's Cross Country Skiing Guide for trail report phone numbers.

The lack of snow has attracted visitors to get some exercise by doing some winter hiking. Park rangers are encouraging this use, but urge caution to hikers because of icy trails. According to **Gordon Bell**, park manager at Camden Hills State Park, "ice falls" often form over rocky ledges and trail paths, creating treacherous conditions. Already this year one hiker has been extricated from the trails at Camden Hills with a possible fracture.

MVP Coordinator **John Titus** reports a successful 1994 season for the Maine Volunteers in Parks program. The MVP conducted 64 projects in 24 areas with 748 volunteers participating saving the the bureau \$86,000+. Projects ranged from research on the natural history of the AWW to greeting visitors to parks and historic sites.

Corpsmembers and two College Conservation Corps team leaders, **Tom Bradbury** and **Rich Bouchard**, began their coldest day of service in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway January 10. The teams began the boundary line clearing project in -40 degree weather. The weather improved throughout the week, ending with 50+ temperatures. Working with the teams were Rangers **Jim Kelly** and **Kim Lynch**. The teams cleared over 5 miles of boundary.

The College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) is accepting proposals to place summer interns with agencies. Please contact **Dave Gerkens** at 287-6107.

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) year round program, the College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM), recently joined 320 programs nationwide as an AmeriCorps program. **Ken Spalding**, MCC director, says AmeriCorps members do 1700 hours of service in exchange for a living allowance, health insurance and a \$4,725 educational award upon completion of the program. The CCCM is the only state-operated AmeriCorps program in Maine.

**Mandy Abkowicz** and **Steve Niles**, two VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) Volunteers, are the latest volunteer staff in the Maine Conservation Corps office in the Harlow Building. Mandy is a Colby graduate with plans to enter medical school after her year of service. Steve is a native of Whitefield, and joined VISTA to develop office skills and gain experience working with young people. **Lester Kenway**, Baxter State Park seasonal trail crew supervisor, has joined the CCCM as an acting team leader.