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

Maine Department of Conservation

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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information April 1995

## BULLETIN

Forestry

Geology

Land Use Regulation

Parks and Recreation

Public Lands

### **DOC TQM at a glance**

#### **Wide range of topics discussed at DOC Quality Council meeting**

• Training, budget issues, a report from the Communications PAT, and bureau TQM activities were among issues discussed at the Department of Conservation Quality Council meeting on April 12. Meeting highlights included:

- Marc Loiselle told council members that the DOC Communications PAT hopes to finalize its report at their April 19 meeting and present their findings and recommendations to the DOCQC at their May 3 meeting. Marc said comments and suggestions provided by employees through the PAT's survey provided important information. He said the group's report will address mistrust, lack of communications guidelines, delays, training and technology needs, and communications with seasonal employees.

- John Titus, BPR, and Tim Spahr, LURC, were among twenty-two participants at the state quality management facilitator's course in March. The training was developed as part of a program for certifying state meeting facilitators under the TQM model, which will also involve practical experience and follow-up seminars. John and Tim will be invited to apply their new skills as guest DOCQC meeting facilitators.

#### **Bureau council highlights**

• In March, the LURC Quality Management Council (LQMC) further refined meeting procedures, identified an initial list of council tasks, and had preliminary discussion on the nature of a vision statement that will relate well to the commission. The LQMC will begin drafting a vision statement on April 25.

• Public Lands staff are reviewing a draft vision statement, and offering suggestions for PAT topics in preparation for BPL's April 20 council meeting.

• The Bureau of Parks and Recreation Quality Council will meet on May 2. The agenda includes a discussion of the TQM session scheduled for BPR's spring meeting and continued work on the bureau's vision statement.

### **Ancyl Thurston receives SAF Award**

Ancyl Thurston has received the Ernest M. Gould, Jr. Technology Transfer Award. The award was presented at the meeting of the New England Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in Burlington, Vermont. The award is made annually to a New England SAF member who has made outstanding contributions to natural resource science and management through education, extension or youth service. Ancyl was selected from several nominees by a panel of foresters representing all New England States and by his colleagues in Maine.

Ancyl, who recently retired, was hired as a Maine Forest Service "Farm Forester" thirty-three years ago this month. He worked as a forester until 1974- one year after the Department of Conservation was formed-when he was promoted to DOC's regional director in Island Falls. Following departmental reorganization in '77, Ancyl served the department in a number of administrative and technical forestry positions.

### **BPR Spring Meeting set for next week in Orono**

The 1995 spring meeting for state park managers and supervisors will be held April 24-27 at the University of Maine conference center in Orono.

This annual training and meeting event will feature presentations from several Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Department of Conservation employees on matters relating to TQM, customer service, community relations, interviewing and hiring techniques, safety, and administrative procedures.

Commissioner Ron Lovaglio, Bureau Director Herb Hartman, and Operations and Maintenance Director Steve Curtis will open the meeting on Monday, April 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Approximately 50 bureau staff will attend the four-day session. The meeting has been organized by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's training committee. Committee members are Scott Woodruff, Ralph Wilkinson, Steve Barden, Dan Bell, Mike Wilusz, Bruce Farnham, Phil Farr, Lin Gosselin and Kim Lynch.

### **DOC celebrates Earth Day**

• Ben Kreiton reports a Popham Beach State Park clean-up day on April 22 at 1 p.m. sponsored by Maine Yankee Power Company; contact Linda Fagan at Maine Yankee, 1-800-458-0066;

• BPR's Pat Bailey and Gordeen Skolfield are presenting outreach programs ("Earth Day Every Day" and "Parks in the Schools") to about 1,400 people at schools in Turner, Litchfield and Mechanic Falls;

• Steve Spencer says there will be a sea kayak work/education trip to Erratic Island in Georgetown on April 22 sponsored by the BPL, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Maine Island Trail Association;

• Steve and Dick Morse will lead an April 29 Dodge Point walking tour to discuss multiple use plans for area. The event is sponsored by BPL and the Damariscotta River Association;

• MFS staffers Don Ouellette, Jeanne Knobil and Tom Driscoll will present PLT Earth Day activities;

• Herb Hartman will march in an April 22 Skowhegan Earth Day parade and speak at a park; and

• Three G.H. Bass Earth Share program teams worked at three state parks on April 14.

### **Merle Ring commended**

Maine Forest Service Forester Merle Ring's customer service drew a recent commendation from a landowner in his district who was planning a timber harvest. Merle talked the landowner through the proper steps, directing him to professional help. "I do not think I have ever met a state employee that was as accessible and helpful as Mr. Ring," the landowner wrote.

### **Summer events planned**

Spring may just be budding out at Maine's state parks and historic sites, but plans are already being made for a summer season filled with special events. Here are just a few:

- Fort Edgecomb S HS - one week-end a month from May - Sept., living history and military encampments;
- Fort Popham SHS - Aug. 10, Phippsburg Thanksgiving Dinner;
- Montpelier SHS- throughout the summer, events commemorating the arrival of the Knox family to live at Montpelier;
- Popham Beach State Park - July 15, 200th anniversary celebration of Seguin Island Lighthouse.



## Conservation Notes

Foresters **Kathy Nitschke**, **Merle Ring**, **Geneva Duncan**, **Tom Whitworth** and **Gary Morse** attended the New England Regional Council on Forest Engineering meeting in Orono, Mar. 6 & 7.

Bureau of Public Lands staff participated in two days of MapInfo training. MapInfo is a PC based GIS software system that enables the bureau to more accurately store, retrieve and analyze data, and produce maps.

Forester **Peter Lammert** attended a meeting in Portsmouth, NH on March 29-30 dealing with "Increasing Production Efficiency through Technical Innovation for Primary & Secondary Wood Processors."

**David Spicer**, community forestry coordinator, reports the availability of Urban & Community Forestry Grants to municipalities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry programs and projects. There is \$101,000 available and the deadline for applying is May 12, 1995. Grants are awarded on a 50/50 match basis and can be matched with in-kind and volunteer services.

At the request of Champion International, **Geneva Duncan** held a road construction workshop for logging contractors in Washington County with **Roger Ryder**, MFS, **Charles Corliss**, LURC and Wash. Co. S&WCD Rep. **Barbara Coffee** as speakers.

Seventeen volunteers staffed the DOC booth during three days of the Maine Sportsman's Show at the Augusta Civic Center. They are: **Anne Bills**, **Craig Ten Broeck**, **Joe Wiley**, **Ralph Knoll**, and **Carol DiBello**, BPL; **Herb Hartman**, **Leland Griffin**, **Gordon Bell**, **Tom Cieslinski**, and **Steve Curtis**, BPR; **Gordon Moore**, **Tom Holz** and **Tim Spahr**, LURC; **Jeanne Knobil**, **Jim Downie**, and **Dan Skillin**, MFS; and **Marshall Wiebe**, DOC.

The Bureau of Public Lands completed its biennial report describing program activities and accomplishments during calendar years 1993 and 1994. As required by legislation, the report was given to members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF).

BPR ATV Coordinator **Brian Bronson** recently worked with DIF&W safety personnel to present an ATV safety training course to game wardens.

Foresters **Tom Whitworth** & **Dave Rochester** attended a hardwood resource workshop at the Maritime Forest Ranger School in Fredericton, NB, Canada.

**Tom Whitworth** gave a presentation on wildlife & recreational projects for small Woodlots to thirty-five persons in Frenchville sponsored by Cooperative Extension.

**Kathy Nitschke** assisted the Maine Tree Farm Committee with informational programs at the Penobscot County Conservation Association Sportsman's Show in Orono and the Augusta Sportsman's Show in Augusta.

Department programs supporting Maine's tourism industry will be highlighted with a display at the State House on "Tourism Day in the Legislature" on April 25. **Anne Bills**, **Mike Foley**, **Sheila McDonald** and **Marshall Wiebe** are working on the project.

MFS Forester **Bob Leso** conducted a five-part course in small woodlot management for landowners in the Skowhegan area. Topics ranged from forest regulations and management, to estate planning.

**Scott Woodruff**, assistant regional supervisor for BPR's Southern Region, reports that work will begin in mid-May on the bureau's efforts to use plantings to stabilize the Songo River's banks at Sebago Lake State Park. This project, funded last year by a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, will continue through the summer.

To help celebrate National Trails Day on June 3, Dave Gerkins reports that AmeriCorps \*College Conservation Corps of Maine (AmeriCorps\*CCCM) and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, will host events at Camden Hills and Wolf Neck Woods State Parks.

MCC team leaders and members, along with BPR staff, will train Maine Volunteers in Parks (MVP) volunteers in trail maintenance techniques.

The project is coordinated by AmeriCorps\*VISTA **Steve Niles** and BPR Volunteer Coordinator **John Titus**, Park Managers **Gordon Bell** and **Andy Hutchinson** and AmeriCorps\*CCCM Team Leaders **Rich Bouchard** and **Tom Bradbury**. A new trail designed and constructed by MVP volunteers and AmeriCorps\*CCCM will be dedicated at the end of the day at Camden Hills State Park.

If you are interested, please contact Steve Niles at 287-6107.

## Personnel Update

### Transfers

- Barbara Durand from BPL to Clerk Typist II, Admin. Services.
- Lori Sheive from AMHI to Clerk Typist II, BPL.

### NE park directors to meet in Maine

The annual meeting of the Northeastern State Park Directors Association will be held in Maine this year from May 10 - 12. Hosted by Bureau of Parks and Recreation Director Herb Hartman, the meeting will be based in Portland and will be attended by directors of state park systems from eleven northeastern states, as well as representatives from the National Park Service and the provincial park system in New Brunswick.

Most of the meeting will be concerned with the association's business and information sharing. A field trip is also scheduled to visit some of Maine's state parks in the southern area of the state.

### MCC to work on state parks, public lands

The Department of Conservation and the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) are planning summer projects at six State Parks and on four Public Lands Management Units. Four MCC summer teams and all three AmeriCorps\* College Conservation Corps of Maine teams will work on the projects. The projects are:

#### Public Lands

##### Management Units

- Cutler Coast and Donnell Pond - Continue developing trail systems on these two units, including building at Cutler what will be the longest coastal trail in Maine. Construct 3 campsites.
- Mahoosuc Mts. - Trail treadway construction on the only day trip access trail to the Mahoosucs on the Maine side of the range.

- Little Squaw - Treadway reconstruction on the trail to the nation's first continuously operated firetower.

#### State Parks

##### and Historic Sites

- Penobscot River Corridor and Allagash Wilderness Waterway - Correct shoreline erosion problems at campsites, including building stairs and retaining walls.
- Holbrook Island Sanctuary Lamoine State Park and Fort Knox Historic Site - Build and repair retaining walls and repair buildings and trails.
- Bradbury Mt. State Park - Upgrade trail and bridges on Land for Maine's Future property.