

Summer 7-1-1988

# A Report on Maine Forests Parks & Lands, Summer 1988

Maine Department of Conservation

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## Forests Parks & Lands

News from the Maine Department of Conservation

Summer 1988

### WELCOME!!

The newsletter you are just beginning to read is an effort by the Department of Conservation to do better one of our most difficult jobs — communicate effectively with people who care and with whom we interact. The task is important and difficult.

Even for someone within the Department it is a challenge to grasp the full function and diversity of the organization. Each of the five bureaus and the central divisions which service them forms a complex in itself. The total package is quite an outfit, responsible for a wider array of natural resource programs than any other state agency.

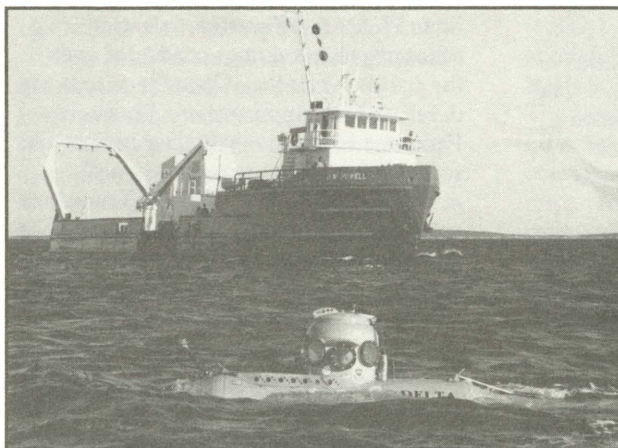
About 350 year-round department employees are supplemented seasonally with another 350 people. And the employees come first in the communication chain. No one is prepared yet to brag about how well communication with employees is being handled. It is being addressed, and it will keep improving. As a beginning, departmental Mission and Vision Statements (where we want to be in the future) have been developed.

Everything the Department deals with relates in one way or another to forests, parks and lands (albeit some of the latter are under water as you will note from Steve Dickson's article about the Delta). This semiannual report will address many aspects of those critically important natural resources.

We hope you will find the report interesting and useful. And please remember, this is but one form of communication—a broad approach to a wide audience. The old standbys of phone, letter, meetings and personal contact are irreplaceable. You are invited to use them all.

Read on, and learn of some of the things we touch.

**Robert R. LaBonta, Commissioner**



Research vessel Powell and submarine "Delta" operating near Damariscove Island in June. Steve Dickson photo

### SUBMARINE GEOLOGY

Seafloor dynamics is the focus of a study by marine geologists at the Maine Geological Survey. The degree of stability of the ocean bed is important in understanding beach erosion and the fate of harbor dredge spoils disposed at sea. Beyond such immediate needs to understand coastal geology and processes, marine geologists are beginning to gather specific details necessary to map the seafloor beneath State waters.

In June marine geologists Joseph Kelley and I (Steve Dickson) of the Maine Geological Survey, together with Daniel Belknap and three students of the University of Maine, continued their seafloor investigations for three days on board the research vessel Powell and a small submarine named "Delta" (See photo). For several years Kelley and Belknap have participated in the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Through competitive research proposals, NURP enables scientists to charter submarines, such as the Delta, to study oceanography.

On June 21 at 7 am the R/V Powell left from the port of Boothbay Harbor and

steamed to Saco Bay. The scientists had mixed opinions on whether or not the day's dives could be accomplished successfully. The goal was to locate and recover sediment traps from an array placed on the floor of Saco Bay a year earlier during a NURP cruise.

Questions were abundant. Will the underwater visibility be more than 10 feet? Would the traps have been dragged by fishing gear? Could storm swells have moved the arrays even though they were in water over 100 feet deep? How likely is it that a 16-foot submarine could find a 5-foot array? If we find the array can we safely recover the traps filled with sediment?

A marker buoy was placed overboard and the side scan sonar system activated at noon. After sonar surveys revealed familiar rock formations on the chart recorder, the Delta made its first dive with Joe Kelley and pilot Richard Slater. At 2 pm Slater, talking to the ship over the underwater radio, reported that they landed on the bottom at 118 feet and had only five feet of visibility. For the next hour the sub searched the murky waters near the marker buoy. Finally the

Cont'd on page 4



# NEW LAND ACQUISITIONS

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has recently acquired new property that has increased the sizes of two state parks. The Bureau will also be playing a key role in future state land acquisition programs.

The largest new acquisition, Holbrook Island, came to the Bureau through a donation by Castine resident Anita Harris. Miss Harris was also the donor of a 1,230 parcel of land on the mainland of Brooksville, which is presently managed as a state park, Holbrook Island Sanctuary. When Holbrook Island itself is fully operational and open to the public, the size of Holbrook Island Sanctuary will total 1,345 acres, making it the largest state park property (with the exception of Baxter State Park) donated by a single individual.

Bureau staff and contractors working for the estate of Miss Harris will be working all summer to ready the island for public use next year. An unsafe pier and dock will be removed and, according to Miss Harris's wishes as stipulated in the deed to the island, buildings not essential for the management and public use of the island will be taken down. Miss Harris required that the island be used only for low impact recreational purposes such as picnicking, nature study, and hiking. The island will thus have no camping facilities or formal picnic areas and will largely be allowed to revert to nature for the enjoyment and appreciation of its visitors. In keeping with the deed restrictions and the intent of Miss Harris, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation also hopes to encourage future use of Holbrook Island by education and research groups. Management of the island will be assisted by an endowment for this purpose provided by Miss Harris before her death.

A 22-acre parcel of land in Pownal was also recently acquired by the Bureau as an addition to Bradbury Mountain State Park. Purchased with funds remaining from a previous land acquisition bond issue, this land is located directly across from the park entrance. The parcel was slated for residential development. As an addition to the park, it will protect the entrance setting and be used for future expansion of the park's campground and trail system.

The Bureau continues to seek additional suitable lands for regional parks, especially in the Belgrade Lakes and Bangor regions. The Bureau is also awaiting the decision, expected this fall, by the Maine Supreme Court concerning public rights to the

intertidal zone — a decision that will certainly influence the Bureau's acquisition priorities as it affects the public use of coastal beaches.

The Bureau's acquisition program will also be shaped by lands to be purchased with funds from the 35 million dollar Land for Maine's Future bond issue, which was approved by Maine voters last fall. The criteria for land purchases is presently being developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board, with assistance from the State Planning Office staff, following a series of public hearings conducted over the past few months. Once the criteria are developed and approved, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation will likely hold title to some of the lands purchased and will manage them directly. Or, the Bureau will assign these lands to local governments and private, nonprofit groups for management.

Sheila McDonald  
Interpretive Specialist  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

## LAKES ASSESSMENT

There are over 1500 lakes ten acres or larger in the unorganized regions of Maine, and they face ever-increasing pressures of development, access, and recreational use. The Maine Wildlands Lake Assessment was recently completed in an effort to provide the Land Use Regulation Commission with the information it needs to make well informed decisions that will balance development with protection of Maine's precious lakes and associated resources. This assessment has evaluated fisheries, wildlife, scenic quality, development, accessibility, and other important features. The information for each lake has been summarized to help guide land use planning along shorelines.

The Commission is presently developing an Action Program for Management of Lakes in the unorganized area that it will circulate for public review in the summer or fall of 1988. This Action Program has been developed with the assistance of a Lakes Advisory Committee representing landowner and private conservation groups.

Fred Todd  
Supervisor of Planning and Resource Analysis  
Land Use Regulation Commission

## HAVE YOU SEEN HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID?



Egg masses of hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) on hemlock.

Since 1985, populations of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid have rapidly spread and intensified in Connecticut causing dieback and mortality of hemlock forest and shade trees. Because this insect is not known to yet be in northern New England, the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont are enacting interim regulations to restrict any artificial spread of the pest on hemlock nursery stock and forestry products. Details of the regulations are available from the Maine Forest Service or the Department of Agriculture.

Any suspected populations of this insect in Maine should be reported to the Insect & Disease Management Lab, 50 Hospital Street, Augusta, Maine (phone 289-2431). The most indicative sign of an infestation would be "Q-Tip" sized woolly masses on the underside of hemlock twigs (see photo) during the late spring-summer.

David Struble  
Maine Forest Service Entomologist

Conn. Agri. Exper. Sta.



# FORT HALIFAX BLOCKHOUSE RISES AGAIN AT WINSLOW; KENNEBEC RIVER FLOOD OF '87 DESTROYED ORIGINAL

Fort Halifax, the 233 year old blockhouse destroyed during last spring's flood, is rising again on its site in Winslow. Under the supervision of the Department's Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Division of Engineering and Realty, the blockhouse is being reconstructed by Winslow contractor Stan Mathieu and is scheduled for completion by the end of the summer.

When it is completed, the reconstructed blockhouse will have approximately 22 of its original timbers in their original locations. These timbers, which were salvaged from the Kennebec River in the

weeks following the flood, are all hand hewn pine and date from the blockhouse's construction in 1754. These salvaged original timbers will be supplemented by new pine timbers that have been sawn and then hewn to precisely replicate all of the blockhouse's original timbers that were not found. The roof and floors will also be made to replicate the original building according to measured drawings of the blockhouse made during the 1930's.

One modification to the reconstructed blockhouse that was not part of the original building is a new foundation and tie-down system. This system, consisting of concrete-filled pipe pilings driven twenty feet into the ground and connected to the blockhouse's timbers, has been designed to prevent the blockhouse from lifting off its site in future floods.

The reconstruction project, funded by state insurance monies and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, will culminate in ceremonies dedicating the blockhouse at the end of October 1988. On July 30, a special public program will take place on the Fort Halifax site and will feature demonstrations of 18th century building techniques that would have been used to construct the blockhouse, such as hewing timbers, splitting shingles, and hand-forging iron work.

In addition to the reconstruction itself, archaeology has also been an important feature of work on the Fort Halifax site since last year's flood. Two weeks of archaeological excavations in August of 1987 proved the original location of the blockhouse by locating evidence of the palisade that extended from two of its walls. That work, funded by a grant from Maine's Historic Buildings Bond Issue, also established that the site contains significant prehistoric remains.

Evidence of these prehistoric habitations was further explored and documented in a subsequent archaeological excavation this past spring, which was also funded by the Historic Buildings Bond Issue. This work located several hearths, bits of charcoal, portions of animal bones, and stone flakes. Further lab work will be required to date and interpret these materials and information about them will be included in future public educational materials at the Fort Halifax site.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE MAINE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

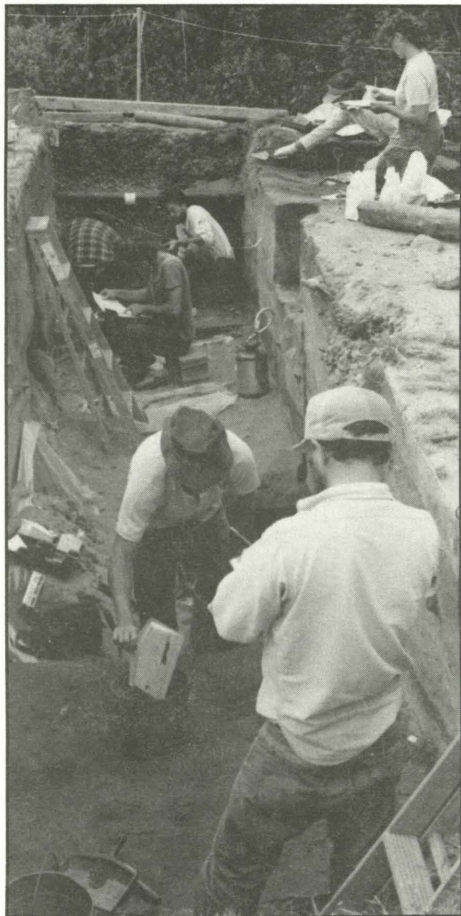
Dr. Charles T. Jackson, Maine's first State Geologist, published his reports on the geology of Maine during the years 1837-1839. In commemoration of its 150th anniversary, the Maine Geological Survey is publishing a series of six volumes entitled *Studies in Maine Geology*, edited by R. D. Tucker and R. G. Marvinney. The "Jackson volumes" will contain over 60 articles on the bedrock, glacial, and coastal geology of the state. These articles were contributed by earth scientists from colleges and universities, the Maine Geological Survey, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The first volume (on Maine's bedrock geology) will be available later this summer.

The Survey is also expanding its efforts to produce educational and general-interest publications on Maine geology. A new bulletin on the geology of Mt. Desert Island is currently in press. This publication describes the distinctive bedrock features and glacial landscapes of Acadia National Park. The evolution of the island's geology and scenery are clearly explained with the aid of photographs and diagrams. Included with the bulletin are full-color maps showing the bedrock and surficial geology of Mt. Desert Island. This publication is oriented toward the layman, and includes a glossary of geologic terms. It is expected to be popular with earth science classes and visitors to Acadia.

Every year the Maine Geological Survey receives many requests for information from people who are planning to visit Maine looking for gem and mineral specimens. These hobbyists will find much useful information in the Survey's "Guidebook to Maine Mineral Localities", due to be published this summer. The guidebook contains an introduction describing collecting techniques and geologic environments where interesting minerals are likely to be found, followed by a series of 45 locality write-ups with detailed maps, directions, and mineral lists for each site.

Woody Thompson  
Geologist, Maine Geological Survey

Sheila McDonald



M. Wiebe

Archaeologists excavate the site of the Fort Halifax blockhouse to document evidence of prehistoric habitation there prior to the blockhouse's reconstruction. This project was funded by a grant from the Maine Historic Buildings Bond Issue, administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.



sub enthusiastically radioed that the sediment trap array had been located. By 4 pm Kelley had successfully capped and removed the year-old sediment traps and had placed empty new traps on the array for another year of collecting. Back at the surface, the submarine docked alongside the Powell and both people and samples were brought aboard.

Steaming a mile closer to Old Orchard Beach, the sonar was towed to map the seafloor and, as before, a marker buoy was deployed and the second dive begun with Belknap and Slater at 6 pm. After another hour long search, the second array was located. From 110 feet bad news was radioed to the ship: both traps were missing. Scientists on the ship calculated that the array appeared to have been moved 100 feet from its former position. Belknap placed new, empty sediment traps on the array with the remote mechanical arm and returned to the surface at 8 pm. The Delta was loaded back onto the ship with a crane and the Powell turned north and steamed back to Boothbay Harbor by 1 am.

On June 22, the second day of the expedition, the most interesting results were found to date. At 6 am the R/V Powell left from the port of Boothbay Harbor and steamed to Seguin Island offshore of the Kennebec River mouth. Our goal, as in Saco Bay the day before, was to locate and recover sediment traps from a triangular frame on the floor of the ocean about a mile southeast of Seguin Island. These traps had been placed on the seafloor a year earlier during a NURP cruise and hopefully had collected sediment for an entire year.

Arriving at the former array site with cautious optimism, a marker buoy is placed overboard and the side-scan sonar system activated. After sonar surveys reveal familiar rock formations on the chart recorder, the Delta makes its first dive of the day with pilot Richard Slater and I. After a two minute descent, Slater, talking to the ship over the underwater radio, reports that we have landed on the bottom under 120 feet of water and can see only 10 feet outside the portholes. For the next half hour the sub searches the murky waters near the marker buoy. Above, on board the R/V Powell, Kelley, Belknap and the ship's crew track the sub's progress on the sonar records and recommended changes in the search pattern. Finally, from the sub we enthusiastically report that the sediment trap array is in sight.

Creeping along the bottom, we move in on the array taking video and still photographs. We note one trap missing, one in place. Closing in on the remaining trap, I

grab the sub's mechanical arm and extend it carrying a lid to place on the trap. We float away as I begin to place the cover on the trap. Steering the sub, Slater repositions us and I swing the cover into place. Opening the arm's claw, I release the lid, tap it down, and grasp the entire trap tightly. Lifting up, the trap will not release from the array; it is too heavy. Shaking and lifting, the trap finally releases. After placing the trap in a basket attached outside the sub, we return to the surface.

In a lab on board the ship, we examine the trap contents. About six inches of layered sediment are in the trap. The top and bottom sediments in the trap are fine-grained clays and silts. Coarser sands are layered in between the two muds. This pattern of accumulation represents the seasonal change in bottom energy: the lowest layer of late summer mud was buried below sands resuspended from the seafloor by fall and winter storms. This spring, after the storms had passed, the mud accumulated once again during fair weather conditions.

From the preliminary results of this and other trapped samples we now know that seaward of Maine's beaches in waters as deep as 100 feet the seafloor sands become resuspended annually. One of the many unanswered questions is how much net movement takes place? Is the suspended sand moving into deeper waters or does it simply settle back in the same location? Answers to such questions are important to understanding the stability of Maine's beaches and the fate of harbor dredge spoils placed offshore. Through continued research we hope to soon answer these intriguing questions.

On the third and final day, the team surveyed deep waters near Monhegan Island and Muscongus Bay. Video images were taped along areas previously surveyed with geophysical equipment. These types of direct observations are extremely useful in documenting the forms and extent of features mapped with both side-scan sonar and seismic reflection systems. The variability in geology along the bottom was remarkable; from a basin floor covered in sticky mud to rubble slopes of boulders left perhaps 14,000 years ago by the glaciers when they covered the Gulf of Maine. In different geologic terrains the video recorded differences in bottom communities of marine life. These brief visits to selected areas enable scientists to map the geologic character of wide expanses of the Maine coast through remote sensing methods.

Steve Dickson  
Marine Geologist  
Maine Geological Survey

## NEW RECREATION ON PUBLIC LANDS

Recreation management is a major program within the Bureau of Public Lands. Last year the Bureau spent more than 20% of its budget or approximately \$300,000 on planning, development, and maintenance of recreational facilities and opportunities.

The summer months are particularly busy for the Bureau's recreation staff. Currently, there are a number of projects underway which will expand the array of recreation opportunities on Public Lands. These include:

- ♦ A new hiking trail which will provide access to the Mahoosuc Mountain Range located near Bethel from the Maine side of the Range.

- ♦ A three mile extension of the existing trail network on the Little Squaw Management Unit near Greenville. The new trail provides foot access to two remote ponds and excellent views of the surrounding area including Moosehead Lake.

- ♦ Construction of two new boat access campsites on Sugar Island in Moosehead Lake. Sugar Island is the largest inland island in Maine.

- ♦ A two mile addition to a hiking trail which creates a loop connecting several of the remote ponds on the Deboullie Unit near Fort Kent.

- ♦ A cooperative effort between private landowners, Public Lands and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to upgrade many campsites along the Moose River Bow Trip located west of Jackman. The Bow Trip is a popular loop canoe trip and the campsites on both private and public lands had deteriorated over the years. The work underway will provide for a more enjoyable trip while protecting the quality of the environment.

- ♦ A project to reconstruct a road to allow safe automobile access to an existing boat landing on Rocky Lake near Machias.

**A Report on Maine Forests, Parks and Lands** is published semiannually by the Maine Department of Conservation. Write to State House Station #22, Augusta, Maine 04333 to receive it.

Maine Department of Conservation  
John R. McKernan, Jr., Governor  
Robert R. LaBonta, Commissioner

Bureau of Parks & Recreation	289-3821
Bureau of Public Lands	289-3061
Maine Forest Service	289-2791
Maine Geological Survey	289-2801
Maine Land Use Regulation Commission	289-2631



# L OPPORTUNITIES

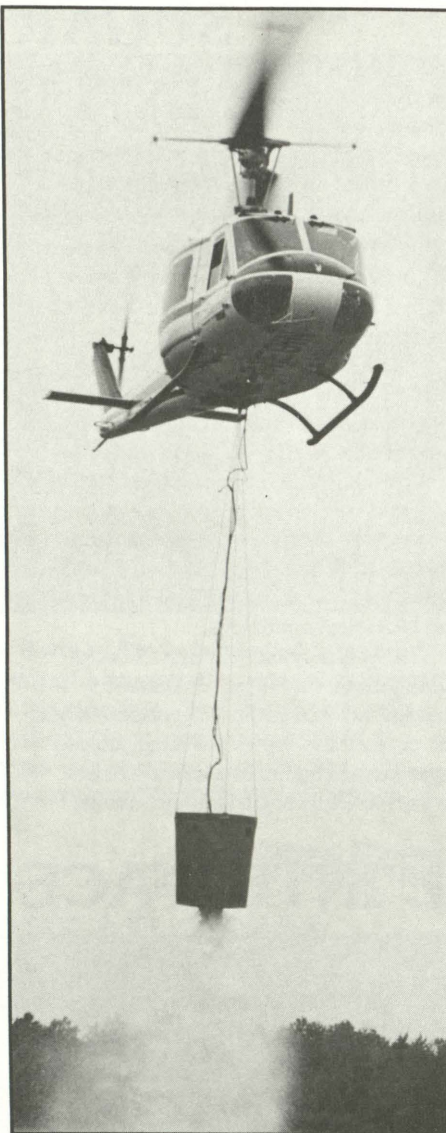
The remote nature of the lands managed by the Bureau pose a major challenge in maintenance and operation of recreation facilities. By pooling resources with other agencies such as Forestry and Parks, campsites on Chesuncook Lake, northeast of Millinocket, and Eagle Lake near Fort Kent are being maintained. In addition, the Bureau is cooperating with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation to provide a seasonal ranger for the Deboullie and Eagle Lake Unit in northern Maine.

## Maintenance a Challenge

Maintenance normally includes inspection of the site, picking up litter, assuring campsites are fire-safe and making minor repairs.

The Bureau administers several contracts with private individuals to maintain some of the boat launches and campsites on Public Lands. In addition to paid contractors, there is an increasing number of individuals willing to volunteer their time to help maintain existing and sometimes constructing new recreation facilities on Public Lands.

**Steve Spencer, Bureau of Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Specialist**



M. Wiebe

# AIR ATTACK

The Maine Forest Service and the Army National Guard have signed an agreement providing helicopters and pilots during forest fire emergencies according to Randy Billings, Maine Forest Service Chief Pilot.

The agreement allows the Forest Service to augment its five helicopter fleet with military choppers when civilian, commercial sources cannot meet the need for additional aircraft during fire emergencies.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Forest Service is providing ground and flight instruction to Army Guard pilots. Billings says ground training includes forest fire basics and terminology. He said flight instruction will concentrate on practice filling and hauling the 2,300 pound loads of water the helicopters are capable of carrying.

In late August, representatives of other state forest fire control organizations also operating helicopters have been invited to a meeting sponsored by the Maine and U.S. Forest Services.

According to John Cashwell, Director of the Maine Forest Service, pilots, maintenance people and administrators from eight states will attend. The meeting, which will be held at the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, will be a chance to exchange information on operations, tactics and most importantly, sources of parts to keep the 1960's vintage helicopters flying.

**Marshall Wiebe**  
Director of Public Information

## INTERAGENCY TRAINING TO PROTECT SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

As the planning agency for one-half of Maine, the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has broad responsibilities for protecting the environment and ensuring the wise use of Maine's abundant natural resources.

Since LURC is a relatively small agency with a large jurisdiction, it has traditionally looked to other state agencies for assistance in carrying out its mandate. Since 1981, a joint agreement between the Departments of Conservation, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental Protection has been aimed at providing LURC with the extra help it needs to cover the unorganized areas of the state. This year, in an effort to bolster that cooperation, LURC has embarked on an ambitious training effort designed to sharpen the awareness of LURC standards amongst Forest Rangers and others who spend time in the field.

A 4-stage training program has been developed, with the initial stage concentrating on LURC standards for Road Construction and Water Crossings and Timber Harvesting.

Sessions have already been held in locations ranging from Augusta to the Allagash Waterway. The second phase of the program, training a cadre of new trainers, is scheduled to begin in late July. Eventually, all Maine Forest Service forest rangers will receive training in LURC standards as they relate to forestry practices.

The expected outcome of the program will be more consistent enforcement of LURC laws. Since forest rangers are strategically located throughout the state, it is hoped that eventually, there will be a strong awareness of LURC standards amongst all woods operators and landowners, hopefully, resulting in better compliance and subsequently better protection of the soil and water resources so vital to Maine's social, economic, and ecological needs.

**Steve Oliveri**  
Education Coordinator  
Land Use Regulation Commission



# ATV STUDY

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency in a study of the adequacy of the All-Terrain Vehicle laws, which was mandated by the Legislature two years ago when it passed a comprehensive revision of the statutes dealing with all-terrain vehicles. Assisted by an Advisory Committee representing numerous agencies, groups and jurisdictions which have an interest in or are affected by the use of all-terrain vehicles, the Bureau is holding public meetings to solicit public comment on problems associated with all-terrain vehicle use. A final report with findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Legislature in January.

A division of All-Terrain Vehicles in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation is working with clubs and landowners to encourage the establishment of more ATV clubs and the creation and management of all-terrain vehicle trails.

**Herb Hartman**  
Director, Bureau of Parks & Recreation

# SUGAR MAPLE DECLINE

Recent reports of decline and mortality in the sugar maple forest type in eastern North America have generated intense interest in the causes and extent of the phenomenon.

In 1987, the North American Sugar Maple Decline Project was initiated as a cooperative international effort to monitor sugar maple health, and to identify the possible causes and geographical relationships of any decline. The cooperative project area extends from Wisconsin/Ontario to Maine/New Brunswick and represents a wide range of pollution levels and biological conditions.

The Maine Forest Service's Forest Management and Insect & Disease Management Divisions are cooperators in this project and are establishing plots in sugar bushes and natural stands from Oxford to Piscataquis County. While

recent surveys of hardwood stands in this area of the state have not identified major regional decline problems, there are stressed trees although the current drought conditions may intensify the situation.

Field monitoring for the international cooperative project is presently scheduled to be completed in 1990. The Maine Forest Service anticipates monitoring at least some of these plots for a much longer period.

**David Struble**

## SERVE/Maine VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This summer SERVE/Maine volunteers and interns are active in all areas of the State from Ashland to Wells.

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation has had volunteers assisting at the Fort Halifax archaeology dig, and at Warren Island cutting blowdowns and maintaining trails. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife SERVE/Maine interns are participating on black bear population studies, identifying waterfowl nesting sites and reestablishing the endangered peregrine falcon.

Created by the Legislature in 1985, the State Environmental Resource Volunteer Effort of Maine (SERVE/Maine) promotes and manages volunteer and intern opportunities with Maine public natural resource agencies.

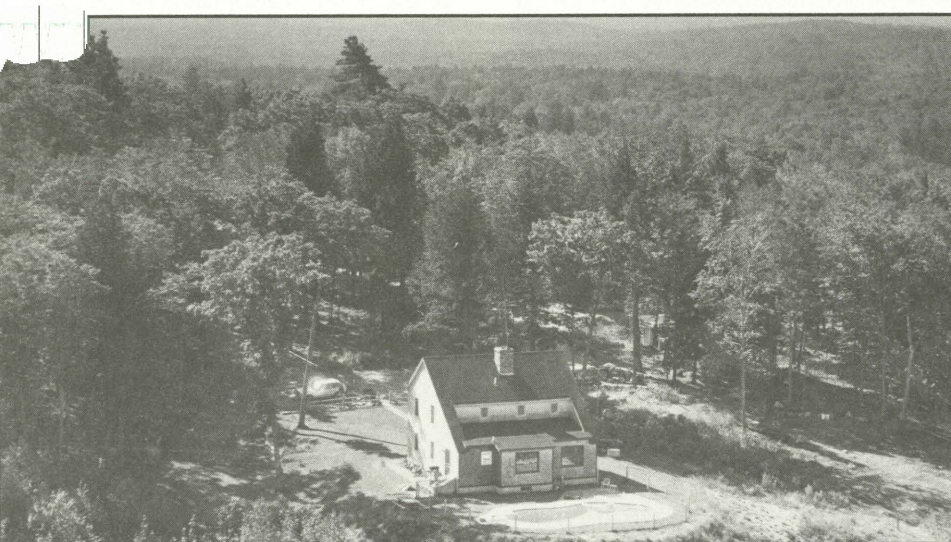
In May, Libbey A. Seigars of Portland was appointed coordinator for the SERVE/Maine Program.

Currently SERVE/Maine is recruiting volunteers for a number of summer and fall projects. Volunteers are needed as Backcountry Rangers for the Bureau of Public Lands, a Group Leader for the International Work Camp at Baxter Park, a data collector for the Big Tree Program, trail maintenance work for several State Parks, boat drivers for the Department of Marine Resources in the Boothbay Harbor Region and Backcountry Hosts for the U.S. Forest Service.

Persons or groups interested in volunteer projects are encouraged to contact the SERVE/Maine Program by letter or telephone. SERVE/Maine, State House Station #22, Augusta, Maine 04333 - Telephone 289-4945.

**Libbey Seigars**  
SERVE/Maine Coordinator

# WILDFIRE AT THE INTERFACE



M. Wiebe

Increased development in Maine's attractive rural woodlands is a growing concern to the Maine Forest Service Forest Fire Control Division. To help home builders, developers and municipal officials reduce forest fire hazard in this "urban/wildland interface," the Division has launched an active educational program. Forest Rangers are participating in meetings with planners and developers to identify hazards and offer suggestions on such things as fire roads and buffer zones.

A folder describing fire prevention measures for camp and home owners is also available. Last fall, the Forest Service released on videotape an updated version of the film, "Then It Happened," originally produced following the great 1947 fire disaster. In the updated version-which is available to schools from the Maine Department of Education and Cultural Services-Governor McKernan stresses the importance of forest fire prevention efforts by home and camp owners.

**Marshall Wiebe**



# MCC TEAMS WORK STATEWIDE



S. McDonald

Maine Conservation Corps members Anthony Betts of Pemaquid and Krista Gallagher of Damariscotta remove vegetation as part of a cooperative project to restore stone foundations at Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site. The MCC is providing jobs, employment training, and conservation education to more than 80 young people on conservation projects across the state this summer. Twenty-two projects are underway at worksites such as the Appalachian Trail, Baxter Park and Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

**Ken Spalding, Director  
Maine Conservation Corps**

## FOREST FIRE OVERHEAD TEAM . . . READY AND ABLE!!!

In the late 1970's the Maine Forest Service's Fire Control Division initiated a Fire Overhead Team system. The Overhead Team is a forest fire management organization selected and trained in advance of a major fire. The entire organization is prepared to mobilize on short notice for a fire anywhere in Maine that might require the specialized services the team offers. Recently the Team was mobilized for duty during the Harrow Lake fire near the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

The ability to field an Overhead Team is largely dependent on the cooperation of employees from all Department of Conservation bureaus as well as forest industry workers. The fire management team frees forest rangers and other Fire Control Division staff for direct fire suppression efforts and to keep fire starts which may occur in other parts of the state from becoming major problems.

The Overhead Team is composed of three units: Line, Service and Plans. The Line Unit is responsible for direct application of forces to control and extinguish the fire including strategy and tactics. The Service Unit provides logistical support and

coordinates all supplies and facilities for sleeping, feeding arrangements, equipment and firefighters. The Plans Unit includes the business end of managing people and equipment. They gather information and present it in usable form to the fire operation as well as keep records for payment of bills and wages. All these jobs are critical to the effectiveness of any fire organization.

The people who work on Overhead Teams from outside the Fire Control Division are invaluable to the Division's work. Many have special talents that would otherwise be unavailable and greatly missed in any overhead operation. The willingness of these people to go out of their way to help the Division goes beyond the normal cooperation expected of employees. Many put in extra hours, with limited or no financial compensation. These commitments do not go unnoticed by the people of the Fire Control Division and we thank everyone for their contributions and dedication.

**Dave Wight  
Maine Forest Service Western Region  
Forest Ranger**

## PARKS & RECREATION LEASING LIGHTHOUSES FROM COAST GUARD

The automation of the West Quoddy Head lighthouse in Lubec has recently made the news, as the era of lighthouse keepers in Maine draws slowly to a close. Agreements between the United States Coast Guard and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, however, may permit the facilities built for the keepers and their families to be revitalized and kept in public ownership, as plans are developed for the Bureau to lease two separate Coast Guard properties abutting state parks.

The first, the keeper's residence at West Quoddy Head, sits on land adjoining Quoddy Head State Park. Under a lease agreement, the Bureau plans to maintain the keeper's residence as a headquarters and residence for the manager and staff at Quoddy Head State Park. Through this arrangement, the Bureau hopes to improve the park facility, provide needed storage for equipment, and better serve the increasing numbers of visitors to the area.

The Coast Guard has scheduled the lighthouse at Fort Point in Stockton Springs for automation this fall. Adjoining Fort Point State Park, the keepers residence there will also be available for lease by the Coast Guard to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Like Quoddy Head, the Bureau hopes to maintain the keeper's house at Fort Point as a headquarters and residence for the park manager, thereby facilitating the park's management by providing needed storage space and increased security, as well as better service for park visitors.

The lighthouses themselves will remain under Coast Guard operation and access to them will continue to be limited. At both facilities, however, the grounds will be open to the public and the Bureau will provide educational information about the history and operation of the lights.

**Sheila McDonald**



# INVESTING IN WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS ON PUBLIC LANDS

The Bureau of Public Lands is directed by the Legislature to manage its land for multiple-use. This mandate requires the Bureau to enhance wildlife habitat as part of its annual program. Timber harvesting is the principle method used to improve the quality of habitat. In recent years the Bureau also has established a more intensive program consisting of additional habitat enhancement projects such as erecting wood duck boxes; creating water impoundments; planting wild rice as a wildlife food source in wetland areas; patch-cutting poplar for ruffed grouse; strip-cutting alder swales and reclaiming old fields for woodcock; and, last but not least, seeding grasses and legumes.

Traditionally seeding in the forest lands of Maine has been to prevent erosion. However, seed mixtures can be modified to provide an important supplement for many species of wildlife. The succulent grasses and legumes provide an excellent source of protein throughout the growing season. This is particularly important in early spring after a long winter has stressed the animals, leaving them in a weakened condition. The Bureau's seeding objective is to plant and maintain a minimum of one acre of herbaceous seeding per square mile of harvested area.

Most seeding is conducted from April to June 15 and from August 15 to September. During this time of year the ground

provides sufficient moisture to allow the seed to germinate and become established. Areas that are seeded include: log landings, roadside ditches, gravel, and borrow pits, stream crossings, winter logging roads and skid trails, and any other areas of soil disturbance.

In an attempt to reduce the high cost of hand seeding, the Bureau has begun using a new type of seed that is coated with lime, fertilizer, and peat moss. Not only does the coating provide the necessary nutrients for seed germination but the peat moss acts as a wick to draw moisture into the seed. Although the coated seed is not suitable for all sites requiring seeding, it has greatly and successfully reduced the number of acres requiring separate application of lime, fertilizer, and mulch.

By taking advantage of new technology, particularly with respect to using coated seed, the Bureau has reduced the average cost of seeding from \$600/acre to less than \$150/acre. As other advances are made, the cost per acre will drop even further.

The Bureau of Public Lands is committed to wildlife seedings. For the calendar year 1988, it is estimated that approximately seventy acres throughout the State will be seeded by various methods. As the Bureau continues to develop better, faster, a less expensive method for seeding, more and more acres can be seeded to the benefit of Maine's wildlife.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE DURHAM STATE DEMONSTRATION FOREST

In 1975, a \$400 scholarship generated by harvesting white pine from the Durham State Demonstration Forest was awarded to a University of Maine forestry student.

Since then, over \$10,000.00 has been awarded to over a dozen University scholars, all the result of profits from scientific management by the Maine Forest Service of the 104 acre Waldo County forest.

The heirs of James C. Durham believed that white pine could be profitably grown and managed when they donated the woodlot to the state as a demonstration forest back in 1964.

The family stipulated that the proceeds from selective cuttings go towards scholarships for forestry students at the University of Maine. To help their request come true, local service forester Bob Umberger (now retired) of the Maine Forest Service worked closely with the Durhams to develop a management plan for the forest in 1967. The Maine Forest Service's Management Division has continued to manage the property according to the plan's original objectives.

**Jack Dirkman**  
Maine Forest Service Forester

**James Ecker**  
Eastern Regional Forester  
Bureau of Public Lands

**Maine Department of Conservation  
State House Station #22  
Augusta ME 04333**

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