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DOC News, November 14, 1984

Maine Department of Conservation

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DOC NEWS

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OUTSTANDING SUPERVISOR - Phil Farr, Park Manager at Holbrook Island Sanctuary, was selected to receive an Outstanding Supervisor award for his participation in the 1984 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. He was chosen for the award for his exemplary performance in working with and supervising the SYETP participants assigned to him. Phil received his award at an Awards Presentation held on Tuesday, October 30 at the Training & Development Corporation office. Keep up the good work, Phil!

FORESTRY ISSUES COMMITTEE - Following six months of discussion and review of the LURC forestry regulations, the Forestry Issues Committee has submitted its final report to the Commission. Made up of representatives of the forest products industry, loggers, environmental groups, and legislators, the Committee was asked to review the Commission's forestry regulations and determine if there were changes which would make it easier for the industry to operate efficiently while not degrading the environment. Alec Giffen, Director of LURC says "the Committee is recommending a responsible, studied approach to determine whether we can maintain the great strides that have been made to protect water quality in the wildlands, while making the regulatory process less cumbersome for forest landowners and woods operators."

COMPUTER COORDINATOR NAMED - Dick Arbour has accepted the Computer Coordinator position in the Division of Administrative Services. He will be coordinating the Department's information automation efforts, particularly as they relate to the new Burroughs System. Dick will be located on the third floor of the Harlow Building in the same office as Payroll and can be reached at 289-2211, as of Tuesday, November 13.

MORE PERSONNEL NEWS - More personnel changes in Administrative Services include: Doug Cotnoir has promoted to an Account Clerk I in the Bookkeeping Section, replacing Marie Plourd who has transferred into the Payroll Section to work with Don Norman. Good luck to Doug and Marie!..Cheryl Fontaine has accepted an Engineering Technician III position in the Health Engineering Division's groundwater program at the Department of Human Services. Cheryl worked for the Maine Geological Survey as a Geology Technician. Best of luck to Cheryl!

PHOTO CONTEST WINNER - John Poisson won an honorable mention for his entry in the Waterville Photography Club's annual photography contest.

LARCH SURVEY

- Golden colored larch trees growing in groups and along waterways and roads are the subject of an extensive fall foliage photo session conducted by the USDA Forest Service, in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service. According to Doug Stark, a U.S. Forest Service crew has taken approximately 3,800 color infrared photos of a 45-mile wide band of forestland stretching along the 3,200 mile coast from New Brunswick to New Hampshire. The survey will enable Maine entomologists to more accurately pinpoint and visit stands to check for European Larch Canker, a fungus which can kill young larch trees and affect the quality of older growth larch. The U.S. Forest Service has funded the project to help Maine monitor the fungus and prevent its spread into other states.

CABINET MEETING

- Governor Brennan will be holding a Cabinet Meeting in Castine November 14 - 16. Commissioner Anderson will speak on a panel including Stewart Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture and Spencer Apollonio, Marine Resources Commissioner, on the subject of Using the Natural Resource Base for Economic Development.

RADON

- Swedish radon research has broadened understanding of how radon enters homes, according to Melanie Lanctot, Maine Geological Survey. Melanie attended the International Conference on Indoor Air Quality in Stockholm, Sweden, where researchers have shown that surficial material under homes, such as gravel, and not drinking water, is the principal source of radon gas in Swedish homes. Swedish houses built on ridges of coarse gravel, called eskers, can have air radon levels which exceed maximum exposures allowed in uranium mines, where radon gas is a common problem. Although high radon levels have been found in homes in several states, Maine is the only state conducting an epidemiological study to determine the relationship, if any, between radon in the home and the incidence of cancer. The results of the research will hopefully clarify the relationship between exposure to radon in the home and incidence of cancer, and help the Department of Human Services set standards which represent an acceptable risk.

WCVB-TV

- A TV crew from Boston's Channel 5 came to Maine on Monday, November 12 to cover the geological study of the earth's crust currently underway. Walter Anderson reports the crew taped vibrator trucks in the Albion area in the afternoon. The pictures were combined with an interview from the Ray Building, transmitted via satellite to the Boston area live at 6:15. "I told them about the uses of the information being gathered including mineral exploration and earthquakes," Anderson said.

PARK PASSES GIVEN AS PREMIUM

- Maine State Park Season Passes are one of three choices being offered as premiums to anyone who purchases two gift subscriptions to the Maine Times at special Christmas rates of \$16 each.