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DOC NEWS

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PARK MANAGER OF THE YEAR - Jarvis Johnson, manager of Cobscook Bay State Park in Dennysville, has been selected as Park Manager of the Year, according to Commissioner Anderson.

The Department's Bureau of Parks and Recreation presents the award annually to a State Park Manager selected "for Dedicated Public Service of the Highest Quality."

"Hard work and dedication characterize Jarvis' park management career. He has sought to preserve Cobscook Bay's traditional attractions and has worked to make the park an asset to the local community. His recent, successful effort to rebuild the Adirondack shelter in the Day Use Area of the park, with the help of the Maine Conservation Corps, is a good example of his dedication, Commissioner Anderson said.

Bureau Director Herb Hartman, who joined the Commissioner during a recent staff meeting in Augusta where Johnson's selection was announced, said Jarvis is active in Bureau training programs and has shown exceptional initiative by making improvements at Cobscook and by contributing to improvements at other parks and historic sites. "Park visitors tell us Jarvis always goes out of his way to help them have a more enjoyable visit," Hartman said.

Johnson, who is 35, is a native of Camden and graduated from Camden-Rockport High School in 1968. He studied forestry at Unity College and went to work for the Bureau of Parks & Recreation in 1969 as a Laborer at Camden Hills State Park. He was promoted to manager of Rangeley Lake State Park in 1976 and later managed Aroostook State Park before coming to Cobscook in 1981. He is married to the former Daisy Gould of Appleton. They have three children, Patricia, 13; Teresa, 11; and Matthew, 10.

VRA - Bill Pratt, formerly of the Department of Transportation, Motor Transport Division, has been hired to manage the Department's Vehicle Rental Agency (VRA). Bill began work yesterday, September 3, and began working on a comprehensive evaluation of the Augusta vehicle fleet. The VRA is expected to be in full operation in September. The telephone number for the VRA office will be 289-7113. Welcome to DOC, Bill!

MOUNTAIN LION SPOTTED - Mickey Rogers, manager of Lake St. George State Park, was driving back to the park from a day off a while ago when a mountain lion crossed the road in front of him. Mickey was driving on the Turner Ridge Road in Palermo when the sighting occurred. He reported what he had seen--a very large animal, as long as a Great Dane with a long tail, tawny brown in color, and short powerful legs--to Wimpy Burnham, his supervisor, who agreed with Mick that the animal was a mountain lion. According to Wimpy, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife has records of other sightings in the area and, in one recent case, hair samples from a tree in which a lion was spotted were analyzed and found to be from the cat family. A few years ago, Myrle Scott spotted a lion in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

REPORT FROM - Peaks-Kenney State Park has just concluded its amphitheater programs for the 1985 season. The programs were very successful, with an average of 72 people per night on Saturdays. The movies were family-oriented with themes that stressed outdoor life. A slide program was developed this year on day-trip destinations from the park and presented on Friday nights. Guest speakers also gave presentations on weather forecasting and mountaineering. Sunday worship services were held at the amphitheater also. Park ranger Rusty Sweeny conducted all the amphitheater programs. Canoe instructions were also offered at the park each Wednesday evening by Scott Phillips, assistant park ranger. The program taught the basic strokes and maneuvers used in flatwater and whitewater canoeing. Park manager Bill Elliott reports that this was the first year that the programs were offered four days a week and that the attendance records speak for themselves; movies, for instance, attracted over 32% of the people in the park.

MGS NEWS - State Geologist Walter Anderson chaired a session at the ARGO-Gulf of Maine Conference on August 21. Joseph Kelley, Woodrow Thompson, and Andrews Tolman of the Maine Geological Survey presented papers on geologic and hydrologic aspects of the Gulf to the 150 registrants at the University of Southern Maine conference.

Woody and Louise Thompson hosted a barbeque at Pocassett Lake for the Maine Geological Survey staff on Tuesday evening, August 27.

NEW JOB - Gary G. Donovan has been appointed as wildlife management supervisor for the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, replacing Douglas Marston who retired July 31.

Gary's new responsibilities include supervision of all wildlife management activities statewide.

Donovan, 39, is a native of Boston and graduate of Saugus High School. While attending the University of Maine to earn a degree in wildlife management, he worked several summers for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Game Division.

He joined the Department as assistant migratory bird research leader in 1969, and was appointed regional wildlife biologist for Region B, headquartered in Augusta, in 1973.

Under a cooperative agreement in 1983, Donovan was appointed as the staff wildlife liaison in charge of integrating wildlife management work on Maine's 450,000 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Public Lands.

BPR NEWS - Steve Curtis married Karen Leavitt on September 1. After a trip on the Bluenose to Nova Scotia, they will honeymoon in Prince Edward Island.

Sally Doyle is back to work at Parks after being out with a pinched nerve. We are all very glad to see her back.