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Maine Department of Conservation

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BULLETIN

Forestry

Geology

Land Use Regulation

Parks and Recreation

Public Lands

TQM Council Highlights

• Department of Conservation Quality Management Council (DCQMC) acts to implement key recommendation of communications PAT report

Council members at their May 24 meeting began a review of the communications PAT final report. The DCQMC agreed that it was essential to expedite implementation of a key recommendation calling for a new PAT to review existing department information distribution policies and procedures and develop guidelines. The DCQMC plans to adopt the new PAT's charter on June 21. The council will continue to review and discuss implementation of the report's other findings and recommendations.

The communications report was distributed/mailed to all employees on June 5. Please call Judy Andrews at 72214 if you have not received your copy.

Chuck Gadzik joined the council at the May 24 meeting. Tom Weddle will fill the MGS CQMC vacancy resulting from Walter Anderson's retirement.

• Bureau councils report

- The first meeting of the Maine Geological Survey Quality Management Council has been set for June 21. All survey staff are council members.
- More than 100 BPR employees, many of them seasonal, will receive TQM awareness training. Sessions are set for Bangor and Augusta. Other BPR staff are enrolled in Conway training.
- Training needs were discussed at the Land Use Regulation Commission Quality Council meeting on May 26. The agency's vision was on the June 12 meeting agenda.
- Public Lands' council meets on July 13 to finalize a vision statement and discuss their first PAT charter. Five council members are enrolled in Conway training.

Personnel Notes

Mary Ann McGarry is the new MFS Natural Science Educator; **Mike Gallagher** has been promoted to BPR's Supervisor, Outdoor Recreation; **Robert Gross** is the new Forest Ranger II in Island Falls; **Robin Brown** is BPL's new Western Region Ranger; Harlow Building Housekeeper **Mavorite Sargent** leaves June 30 after nearly 26 years of state service. BPL Western Region Forest Technician **Mark Martin** has resigned.

Conservation Notebook

A recent *Maine Times* cover story describes the need for repairs at state parks and historic sites, but paints an overly gloomy picture of the system, suggesting that it is on the "verge of collapse". Water quality bond issue funds, volunteer assistance and the prospect of restored loon license plate monies for repairs and renovations make the situation more optimistic than the article depicts, according to BPR director **Herb Hartman**.

BPL's **Del Ramey, David Allen**, LURC, and **Mike Ricci**, MFS, attended the St. John River Advisory Committee annual river trip.

Kathy Nitschke and **Geneva Duncan** monitored forestry tests at Downeast & Central Regional Environthons for 220 high school students.

Jim Davis, manager of Fort Edgecomb State Historic Site, and **Sheila McDonald**, BPR resource administrator, were recently pictured in the *Wiscasset Times* and *Lincoln County News*. The photograph was taken at an old entrance sign, identifying the site as Fort Edgecomb State Memorial was replaced with a new sign showing the site's new name, Fort Edgecomb State Historic Site. Also featured in the photograph was **Alice Boardway**, longtime good neighbor to the fort and former caretaker. Fort Edgecomb's new sign, like the many other signs throughout the state park system, was designed by **Doug Tyler** and fabricated by **Steve Vondell**, Camden Hills State Park ranger, and **Jarvis Johnson**, Central Region maintenance mechanic supervisor.

District foresters hosted FPA logger/forester training meetings in: Sanford, **Dennis Brennan**; Lincoln, **Kathy Nitschke**; Bridgeton, **Merle Ring**; Houlton, Presque Isle & Fort Kent, **Tom Whitworth & Dave Rochester**. **Geneva Duncan**, Machias. **Roger Ryder** coordinated the programs with the financial support of the Maine Forest Products Council.

Stewardship Program training for consulting foresters has been conducted by **Bob Leso** in Farmington, **Geneva Duncan** in Ellsworth, **Dennis Brennan** in Sanford and **Kathy Nitschke** in Dover-Foxcroft. Programs will be conducted by **Tom Whitworth & Dave Rochester** in Presque Isle

on June 26, in Damariscotta on June 27 by **Jim McMullen** and on June 28 in S. Paris by **Merle Ring**. **Peter Beringer** coordinated.

Steve Oliveri reports that BPL's Submerged Lands Program has been directed by the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee to study submerged lands fees and make recommendations next January.

MFS Forester **Dennis Brennan** completed the 'Plant A Tree' promotional campaign with radio station Ocean 98 and Forest City Chevrolet. Mt. ash seedlings were distributed and an information booth was set up at the dealership. Dennis also distributed seedlings to local businesses and eleven schools as part of the Project Learning Tree Arbor Week Poster Contest. Dennis presented Tree City Awards and seedlings to Kennebunkport, Portland, South Portland, Westbrook and Yarmouth.

Peter Lammert spoke on marketing opportunities and **Jim McMullen** spoke about landowner assistance programs at the Time and Tide RC&D meeting at the Pine Tree State Arboretum.

BPL's **Ralph Knoll** received a Master of Public Administration from the University of Maine at Orono in May and received the Barrie Blunt Memorial Award.

Dick Bradbury, MFS, reports that the trial aerial application in May of Dimilin (an insect growth regulator) to portions of Great and Little Diamond Islands in Casco Bay to control browntail moth went very well. Preliminary results of the application are promising. This cooperative project between the MFS, the City of Portland, and Uniroyal Chemical Company, is one aspect of MFS efforts to develop an integrated set of effective and appropriate pest management options for browntail moth.

Reid State Park visitors on Mother's Day were treated to an unexpected whale sighting just offshore. Park Manager **Dan Bell** reports extensive sightings of whales (probably pilot whales) throughout the day, including breaching (when whales fling themselves into the air). It is not known if any of the whales were indeed mothers celebrating their special day.

JUN 15 1995

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Administrative Services Director **Will Harris** reports that the first wall-sized Department of Conservation organizational chart has just been completed. **Debbie Phillips** and **Ellen Blair**, with assistance from the bureaus and special help from the Maine Geological Survey, have created the chart showing every position and its place within the department's organization. A copy of the chart, which is approximately ten feet long, was given to the Governor's Office. They were so impressed that they have requested similar charts of all state agencies.

Veteran State Park Regional Supervisor **Bill Cleaves** has retired after thirty-seven years with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Bill's retirement party will be held on Saturday, July 22 in Presque Isle. For further information, contact **Joe Powers** or **Sandra Cleaves** at BPR's Presque Isle office, phone 764-2040.

Steve Dickson and **Joe Kelley** participated in the national meeting of the Association of State Floodplain Managers held in Portland. Steve presented a paper on their shoreline change study and both Steve and Joe conducted a field trip from Camp Ellis to Pine Point to review coastal erosion.

Henry Trial and **Mike Devine**, MFS, have lead responsibility for part of the New England-Mid Atlantic Regional Forest Health Monitoring crew training.

According to **Dave Struble**, Insect & Disease Management field staff are working with U.S. Forest Service crews to coordinate special pest damage survey efforts on ground plots as part of a cooperative project involving three New England states.

Clark Granger and **Geneva Duncan**, MFS, have developed an integrated crop management schedule for production of Christmas trees in Maine. Copies are available.

BPR's **Scott Ramsay** recently hosted two public meetings in New Sweden to discuss the purchase and management of the abandoned Bangor and Aroostook railroad right-of-way for recreational trail use.

More than 100 BPR field staff are scheduled to attend the annual ranger and lifeguard academies, which will be held in mid-June at the state YMCA camp in East Winthrop according to

Academy Director **John Titus**. This year's ranger academy will address several important state park system subjects including TQM, customer service, administrative and policy updates, and conflict management. Lifeguard academy will include proficiency testing in a 500 yard swim, .5 mile paddle board, and a 1.5 mile run. Lifeguards will also be required to demonstrate performance standards for CPR certification.

Among department employees recently participating in training programs are: from BPL, **Sue Starrett**, **Jack Dirkman**, **Patricia Simard**, **Ted Bradstreet**, **Steve Spencer**, **Carol Olson**, **Del Ramey**, **Matt Foust** and **Bea Spencer**, LOTUS 1,2,3 for Windows; from MFS, **Eric Nosel**, **Roger Dicker** and **Sean O'Connor**, Defensive Driving; **Chester Gage** and **Don Kidder**, UM Timber Security Workshop; and **Roger Dicker** and **Eric Nosel**, UM Forest Products Merchandising Workshop.

Montpelier State Historic Site in Thomaston has recently been leased for management to the Friends of Montpelier. The two-year lease transfers daily operational responsibilities to the Friends and represents a significant effort at a public-private partnership between the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Friends. Instrumental in the lease negotiations and accompanying details have been **Herb Hartman**, **Steve Curtis**, **Tim Hall**, and **Sheila McDonald**. Montpelier Park Receptionists **Theresa Johnson** and **Nancy LaGoy** also insured a smooth transition in management responsibilities and will be working throughout the summer to computerize Montpelier collections records.

The Maine Geological Survey hosted the 58th field conference of the Friends of the Pleistocene on the weekend of May 13-14. **Woody Thompson** and **Bob Johnston** organized the meeting and prepared the guidebook. Along with other co-leaders from the MGS surficial mapping program, they took the sixty-five person group to a series of localities between Portland and the New Hampshire border that illustrate the glacial geology of southwestern Maine. Sebago Lake State Park was one of the major stops on the trip. The Friends of the Pleistocene have met in various parts of the northeast and Canada since 1934.

To help celebrate National Trails Day, AmeriCorps*College Conservation Corps of Maine (AmeriCorps*CCCM), in partnership with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, held events at Wolfe's Neck Woods and Camden Hills State Parks. Coordinated by **John Titus**, the day resulted in over 37 Maine Volunteers in Parks (MVP) volunteers being trained by AmeriCorps*CCCM members and staff in trail construction skills.

At Camden Hills State Park, AmeriCorps*CCCM Team Leader **Richard Bouchard** and five corpsmembers provided trail skills training to Maine Volunteers in Parks (MVP) members including construction of four waterbars, eighteen stepping stones and an eighteen foot log bridge. This completed work on the new **Jack Williams** Trail, which was officially opened to the public at noon, and was publicized with an article and photo in the *Bangor Daily News*. Bureau Director **Herb Hartman**, Regional Supervisor **Tim Hall**, Volunteers **John Titus**, **Cindy Bastey**, **Mike Wilusz**, and Park Manager **Gordon Bell** all participated in the event.

Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park saw a smaller, but no less enthusiastic group of volunteers. AmeriCorps*CCCM Team Leader **Tom Bradbury** and four corpsmembers along with the volunteers, completed thirty-two feet of bog bridges, eight rock stairs and 100 square feet of rock treadway. BPR's Director of Operations & Maintenance **Steve Curtis**, **Karen Curtis**, Park Manager **Andy Hutchinson**, and Park Ranger **Bryan Kalleberg**, participated in the event at Wolfe's Neck Woods.

A major project at Montpelier State Historic Site in Thomaston has been completed. The entire contents of the museum's six third floor rooms were moved to make way for workers who spent a month repairing damaged plaster walls. Once all the third floor furnishings, representing an estimated 150 objects, were moved out and stored in downstairs rooms, they all had to be moved back in for the opening of the building by Memorial Day. Taking part in this Herculean effort were **Sheila McDonald** and BPR Central Region staff members **Mike Wilusz**, **Jarvis Johnson**, **Don King**, **Paul King**, **Francois Roy**, **John White**, **Theresa Johnson** and **Nancy LaGoy** who all safely managed the task with no damage to life, limb or Montpelier's collections.