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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 council receives report from communications PAT

Department of Conservation Quality Management Council (DCQMC) members at the May 3 meeting received the final report of the council's PAT on communications within the DOC. PAT member Mark Loiselle presented the report. The council will send a copy of the report to every employee with an invitation to comment on the report's findings and recommendations. The report and its recommendations are on the council's May 24 meeting agenda.

Council members responded to questions from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's QMC concerning employee participation in TQM, and visits to council meetings with the following information: 1. participation in Maine state government's Total Quality Management Process, including training, is a condition of employment and is therefore not optional; 2. the following trial basis guidelines for employee observer visits to department council meetings are established: a. DCQMC meetings are open to observer visits by employees (bureau councils may establish similar guidelines); b. employees who wish to visit a DCQMC meeting as an observer are welcome and should first arrange, with immediate supervisor, coverage of operational needs during absence from work; c. supervisors will notify Shippen Bright, DOC's TQM coordinator (74904), of the planned visit to the council. Ship will ensure accommodations (space, for example) are available, and will confirm directly with the employee visitor the meeting time and place (It is recommended that visitors reconfirm meeting time and location a day or two before the scheduled visit).

Legislation to provide money for TQM after June 30, 1995 has not been proposed and council members initiated steps to encumber TQM money currently available including the possibility of prepayment for training.

BPR's John Titus received thanks and plaudits from council members for facilitating the meeting.

The DOCQMC has scheduled meetings on May 24, June 6, July 12 and August 9.

• Bureau councils continue progress

- The Bureau of Public Lands Quality Council is working on a draft vision statement that has been reviewed by the bureau's entire staff.

- The Bureau of Parks and Recreation Quality Council worked on the bureau's vision statement at their May 2 council meeting. BPR hopes to finish work on the vision on June 20.

- The Land Use Regulation Commission's Quality Council will continue work on a vision statement at their May 26 meeting.

Department of Conservation Employees Recognized

Sue Roderick receives MSA Award of Merit

Sue Roderick of BPR's Off-Road Vehicle Division received the Maine Snowmobile Association's Award of Merit on May 10 from MSA Central Region Vice President George Gunning.

The award reads: "For the dedication and generosity with which you have shared your knowledge and for the excellence with which you serve the needs and wishes of the snowmobiling community, and for your unflagging support of the principles and goals which we share, the Maine Snowmobile Association proudly bestows this Award of Merit with the grateful thanks of those with which you have worked so diligently and capably."

Otis Gray receives IF&W's Colonel's Award

Forest Ranger Pilot Otis Gray has received the Colonel's Award from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for many years of assistance to the Maine Warden Service with search and rescue, fish stocking and law enforcement.

The award was presented by Chief Warden Parker Tripp who said Otis' contributions over the years, "warrant recognition beyond what this award can offer."

If one looks at the criteria for this award and compares it to the contributions that Otis Gray has made over the years to the Warden Service, the award description would be an understatement of major proportions," Tripp said.

Otis Gray is based in Greenville and has flown for the Maine Forest Service, Forest Fire Control Division, since 1978.

Arbor Week poster contest winners announced

The Maine Forest Service has sponsored a statewide poster contest for elementary school children to celebrate Arbor Week in Maine, May 21 - 27. The theme for the 1995 poster contest is "People and Trees... Growing Together for Maine's Future." The posters will be displayed in the Hall of Flags at the State House from May 15-24. There are more than 3,700 students, 200 educators and 170 schools participating this year. Each student participating will receive a tree seedling donated by International Paper and Georgia Pacific companies, and distributed by Maine Forest Service staff.

This year's grand prize winners are:

Fran Spiotta and Chris Johnson's fifth grade class, Intermediate Learning Center - Livermore Falls; Judith Douglas' third grade class, Gilford Butler School - South Thomaston; and Stephanie Redman and Linda Babb's first grade class, Orland Consolidated School - Orland.

Winners receive an Arbor Week ceremony hosted by a MFS district forester including a shade tree planted on school grounds and an Arbor Week plaque for their school.

Casco Bay area moth hazard well publicized

Based on MFS surveys and reports from Insect & Disease Management Division (I&DMD) cooperators, Casco Bay area island visitors are being advised that they may be exposed to the effects of browntail moth caterpillars.

I&DMD staff are working with various groups to ensure that people are aware of the potential problem and possible mitigating actions. News releases, targetted medical alerts, and public pest alerts have been produced with the help of municipal officials, the media, DOC and other governmental agencies, and the Maine Island Trail Association.

As a result of I&DMD negotiations with federal agencies concerning intergovernmental management response to threats posed by Maine's browntail moth infestation, federal technical assistance, in addition to state resources already committed to the problem, is being made available.

Information about the browntail moth is available from the MFS / I&DMD in Augusta.

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Walter Anderson Fund established

Walter Anderson retired from the Maine Geological Survey on May 12 after more than 27 years with the survey and 17 years as state geologist. Walt requested that he not be showered with gifts to commemorate his retirement, and further wishes no retirement luncheon or dinner. In lieu of these, Walt requests that contributions be made to the Geological Society of Maine (GSM), specifically to the Walter Anderson Fund which is currently being initiated.

The GSM is a nonprofit organization dedicated to geological issues and education in Maine. The society has a membership of more than 200 professionals in the state and elsewhere including members from business, academia and government. The society meets regularly on geological issues and encourages student participation.

The Walter Anderson Fund will support student activities such as recognition of outstanding student papers at the society's annual spring meeting. Contributions by check to the Geological Society of Maine may be given to Bob Marvinney, Maine Geological Survey, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022.

New MFS vehicles improve firefighter safety

The Maine Forest Service has been loaned six, 5 ton cargo carriers by the Federal Excess Property Program. The tracked vehicles arrived by rail from a military depot in Texas and were shown in a recent *Bangor Daily News* photo. Fire Control Division Supervisor Tom Parent says the vehicles will be equipped with water tanks, pumps and foam spray units. According to Tom, once the all-track vehicles are modified, they will provide safer working conditions for firefighters by providing greater quantities of water during fire line construction. Excess Property Screener Bill Getchell says each unit is valued at approximately \$177,000, for a total value of the six vehicles of more than \$1 million. Two vehicles are expected to be ready by summer.

Songo River streambank stabilization completed

Staff from BPR, DEP and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have installed experimental erosion control devices and plantings along the banks of this popular southern Maine River. The devices include a log boom and fiber rolls to intercept boat wakes; a turbulence reduction curtain to reduce river current energy; and a variety of bank plantings including nursery-grown and transplanted sand barwillow which is indigenous to the Songo River.

The project is headed by BPR's Scott Woodruff, assistant southern region supervisor, and is funded by an EPA nonpoint source pollution control grant coordinated by BPR's Cindy Bastey.

Conservation Notes

• **David Spicer**, along with Augusta Tree Board Member **Dave Comeau**, presented the Tree City USA Award to the Augusta City Council. The presentation was shown on the local cable TV program. A total of eight Tree City USA awards will be presented this year.

• **Dennis Brown, Tom Collins, Bruce Farnham, Phil Farr, Bob Hunt, John Polackwich, and Mick Rogers** were guest speakers for the Methods of Interpretation Workshop held at UMO on April 27 as part of BPR's spring training meeting. Speakers shared their success stories and innovative ideas on interpretation with other workshop participants.

• **Woody Thompson** chaired the 6th annual Maine Mineral Symposium in Augusta, which was held on the weekend of May 6-7. The meeting attracted over 200 persons from as far away as Texas and Tennessee, for a program of lectures, exhibits, and field trips concerning Maine minerals, mines, and the mineral collecting hobby. Commissioner **Ron Lovaglio** attended the symposium, as did **Bob Marvinney** and **Tom Weddle**. The Maine Geological Survey's new book, *The Mineralogy of Maine*, attracted much attention from participants. Earlier in the week, **Walt Anderson** and the MGS staff presented a copy of the book to **Governor King**.

• BPR's **Sheila McDonald** is a contributing author in the new book, *Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present*, co-authoring the chapter on Maine agriculture, 1783-1861.

• **Andy Hutchinson** and **Patty Bailey** took the Parks in the Schools outreach program to nearly 300 students from kindergarten through fourth grade in Mechanic Falls in May. **Ellen Blair** arranged for Patty to do programs for about 150 more students in Benton.

• Forest Rangers **John Leavitt** and **Chris Cloutier** will appear in fire prevention TV public service announcements this summer.

Conservation Notes continued

• An investigation by Forest Rangers **Courtney Hammond** and **Jeff Currier** has lead to charges against a Lubec resident for his part in an April wildfire. District Forest Ranger **Douglas Getchell** of Jonesboro commended the two rangers for their work.

Arson often accounts for the majority of fire starts in Washington and Aroostook counties. The Wildfire Arson Program (1-800-987-0257) creates greater public involvement to deal with this serious problem.

• In May, **Dan Bell**, manager of Reid State Park, and Rangers **Dave Percy, Stephen King, and Darrell Gray** of Popham Beach State Park went the extra mile—"littorally." In weather that ranged from driving rain to gale force sandstorm, they joined Maine Audubon staff and **Patty Bailey** in carrying fencing, driving stakes, and stringing twine to protect miles of dunes and the endangered least terns and piping plovers that nest there.

• Boating Facilities Director **Dick Skinner** will staff displays at the Maine Marine Trade Association's Boat Expo this weekend at Spring Point Marina in South Portland. The displays explain the boat access program, and potential hazards of browntail moth caterpillars to Casco Bay boaters.

• **Cindy Bastey** and **Patty Bailey** of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation joined MDIF&W staff in welcoming a group of forestry and park officials from Ukraine. They presented a slide show on Maine's state parks and led a discussion of issues of common concern.

• **George Hannum**, DOC hydropower coordinator, continues to represent the department in the "TQM-type" relicensing process initiated by International Paper for their Riley, Jay and Livermore projects and negotiated settlement meetings with CMP on Kennebec River Basin projects and Union Water Power for Upper Androscoggin Basin projects. These processes are changing the way hydro companies in Maine are obtaining new or renewal FERC licenses.

• **Chip Edgecomb, Nelson Peterson, and Ron Cyr** meet regularly with other engineering professionals to discuss better ways to utilize computer aided drafting (CAD) software. The Boating Facilities Division has been using CAD since June 1993.