

11-1-1992

Bulletin: Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees, November 1992,

Maine Department of Conservation

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Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "Bulletin: Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees, November 1992," (1992). *Conservation Newsletters*. 136.
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November
1992

BULLETIN



Information for Maine Department of Conservation Employees

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Commissioner's Column

In my October column, I outlined the long term importance of natural resources to Maine's economy. But what role can forest industries and our natural resource agencies play in improving the present economy? Demand for lumber and paper products are important economic indicators. While both paper and lumber industries have been affected by weakened markets, there are some positive signs.

- Maine's pine mills have been doing well despite a generally slow lumber market. They have shifted sales to the south and mid-west where demand is stronger than in the northeast.

- Several softwood lumber mills are sending products to Florida to help meet the demand for building products following Hurricane Andrew. A number of Maine mills have also donated lumber to the rebuilding effort.

- Several hardwood turneries have found new products and markets despite competition from foreign markets and plastic substitutes. Some of these mills are even expanding.

- Strategic investments now being made in Maine are also positive indicators. Bowater's paper recycling facility and investor interest in forest land are examples.

Despite the recession, opportunities do exist and they can have a positive influence on others. This is important, because in these times it is desirable to identify successes and solutions not just focus on problems.

Maine's forest industries can help spark a stronger state economy. The DOC will be working with them to help lead toward a stronger future. Over the coming months, we will be making the case that it is important to make investments now, and that sound natural resource agencies are necessary if we are to foster the wise use of our resources and build a bright future for our state.

Deputy Commissioner Appointed

Carol Michel, who is deputy director of the State Planning Office (SPO), will become DOC's deputy commissioner in December.

Carol has significant experience in government and public policy at the state and federal level. She serves as SPO's budget and legislative director and has worked with us on natural resource issues. She is familiar with many DOC programs and is particularly interested in communications and building strong alliances with our constituencies. She will be a solid addition to our team.

MSECCA Continues Through November

We are nearing the middle of the MSECCA campaign. DOC employees have been solid supporters of this important effort in the past. Over 450 programs and services throughout the state are supported by MSECCA.

As the economy remains slow, the needs increase. It has been estimated that one out of every two Maine people directly benefit from these programs. The volunteers who make MSECCA so successful need your help. If each employee gives just a little, together our support will mean a great deal. I hope you will join me in supporting the program.

Ed Meadows

MGS CREST Program Aids Science Teachers

The Maine Geological Survey has published one of the most significant curriculum products of the CREST project: an impressive 334-page book titled *Activities and Resources for Earth Science Teachers*. The book is being distributed on request to teachers throughout the state. Doug Reusch, CREST coordinator, is currently working on the follow-up publication, a field trip guidebook. Videotapes on *Maine's Water Resources* and *The Ice Age in Maine* are also near completion.

The CREST project is funded with a three-year National Science Foundation grant to the Maine Geological Survey. CREST, which stands for *Curriculum Resources for Earth Science Teachers*, grew out of the survey's perception that science teachers would benefit from the development of curriculum materials describing the geology of Maine and the economic and environmental importance of earth resources.

DOC Employees
Support MSECCA

The Maine State Employees Combined Charitable Appeal (MSECCA) is a good way to help people **in your community** during this difficult economic period. The MSECCA campaign provides an opportunity for everyone to give a little to those who are less fortunate.

Department of Conservation employees are now working to increase participation during the 1992 MSECCA campaign. There are two ways **you** can help. You can write a check payable to MSECCA for any amount, or you can authorize a biweekly payroll deduction. Any donation is welcome; simply fill out your MSECCA form and return it to your designated MSECCA office coordinator by December 1, 1992.

Every donation makes a difference. For example:

- \$.50 a week can provide sixty-five nourishing hot meals for needy people.
- \$1.50 a week provides the extensive training program for the hospice volunteer who helps a family cope with terminal illness.
- \$2.00 a week can provide fifty-two hot meals delivered to home bound elderly people.
- \$3.00 a week can provide seventeen nights of emergency shelter and meals for a homeless person.
- \$4.00 a week can provide thirty hours of supervised adult care for a patient suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

You can "localize" your tax deductible donation by designating on the MSECCA form that you want your money sent to the **charity or service organization of your choice in the area you select**. Make a difference to those in need!

If you have questions, ask your MSECCA volunteer who is:

- Admin. Services- Kim Pierce
- Geology - Mike Foley
- Forestry - Leslie Wiles
- Public Lands - Leigh Hoar
- LURC - Gloria Allen
- Parks - Steve Curtis

NOV 05 1992

Conservation Notes

Lisa Knauf has joined the Maine Forest Service as the natural science educator. Lisa will coordinate the Project Learning Tree Program. • **Joe Kelley** reported on Maine Geological Survey and University of Maine research into the origin of Penobscot Bay seafloor pockmarks at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. • **Ted Bradstreet** has joined LURC as education coordinator with the Resource Administration Division. • **Virginia Coady** has joined the College Conservation Corps of Maine as a half-time secretary. • **Edna Kennedy** has joined the department's Administrative Services Division as a clerk-typist II. • **John Cashwell**, president of Seven Islands Land Company, received awards for outstanding service to the Baxter State Park Authority and the National Association of State Foresters. A reception is being planned for John at the Senator Inn on November 20. • BPL's **Henry Whittemore** attended the public hearing on the first lake concept plan to be considered by the LURC. BPL supports the plan and expressed interest in working with Lowell and Company Timber Associates to accept fee title for the state to Attean Pond's shoreline and to ensure protection and public use of the Attean Pond-Holeb Pond portage trail. • Forest Ranger **Bill Getchell**, MFS federal excess property screener, has acquired over \$500,000 worth of excess military property during the past eleven months. • **Scott Ramsay** spoke on motorized recreational use of private land to the American Pulpwood Association. • **Sheila McDonald** spoke to the Androscoggin Historical Society on Maine's state-owned historic forts. • Maine state parks and historic sites showed up as winners in the recent "Best of Maine" contest sponsored by the Maine Times. **Two Lights State Park** and **Mt. Battie in Camden Hills State Park** were winners in the "Best Place for Out-of-State Visitors" category. Owls Head Light (near BPR managed land in Owls Head) was a runner-up. The third place for "Best Building Seen From the Road" was **Montpelier State Historic Site**. • Eagle Island State Historic Site will be the beneficiary of a newly-formed friends group, Friends of Admiral Peary's Eagle Island. The group, based in the Brunswick-Topsham-Bailey Island area, held an organizational meeting attended by BPR's **Steve Curtis**, **Scott Woodruff**, **Tom Skolfield** and **Sheila McDonald**.

Rangers Aid Injured Man

Veteran Forest Rangers Tom Lamont and Kendall Knowles of the Rangeley District, recently were involved in a rescue on Kibby Mountain near Eustis. On the afternoon of October 12, an employee of the U.S. Wind Power Company of California was injured by a falling tree. Rangers Lamont and Knowles, along with members of the Eustis Fire Department, Sugarloaf Mountain Rescue and the Air National Guard, worked 5 hours treating and eventually transporting the injured man off the mountain at around 9:00 p.m.

College Conservation Corps Assists BPR

The College Conservation Corps of Maine (CCCM) has been tackling work projects at state parks this fall. CCCM teams finished resurfacing a handicapped access trail at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park, built a rock treadway on the new trail to the summit of Bradbury Mountain, took part in the sea wall restoration at Eagle Island, and are currently working on trails at Tanglewood 4H Camp and other projects at Lake St. George and Bradbury Mt. State Parks.

Work is underway to recruit a third CCCM team that will attend the University of Southern Maine part time and work on service projects in the Gorham area. If you know of someone who would be interested in applying to the CCCM as a team leader or corpsmember, please call Dave Gerkens at 287-6107.

CCCM to the Rescue

Necessity was the mother of invention and a good deal of cooperative work on a project at Eagle Island State Historic Site recently. Forced to stabilize damaged sections of the island's stone wall before winter coastal storms could cause further damage, Scott Woodruff of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation needed a "bucket brigade" to transport sandbags, which were needed to temporarily fill holes in the stone wall.

The newly-formed College Conservation Corps of Maine team based at the University of Southern Maine came to the rescue. Corpsmembers Scott Goodale, Jason Cooke, Isaiah Soll and Richard Chase joined BPR staff Scott Woodruff, Dan Bell, Dan Brown, Ralph Wilkerson, Jeff Dunn, Steve Barden and Bob Webb to form an 11-person team to get the job done.

Roger Milligan Retires

Eastern Regional Forest Ranger Roger Milligan retired in October.

Roger began his career with the Maine Forest Service in 1962 as a seasonal forest warden in Washington County. Prior to working for the MFS, he was employed by Fish and Game as a temporary game warden.

After serving in the U.S. Army as a supply sergeant, Roger returned to the Forest Service as a forest ranger in 1967. He became a district ranger in 1969 and was promoted to eastern regional ranger in 1975.

A Washington County native, Roger has played a key role at many important forest fires including the Baxter Park fire in 1977.

The following excerpt from the *Report of the Review Board of the Baxter Park Fire* illustrates Roger's professionalism, knowledge of wildfire and his considerable skills as a woodsman.

"Milligan arrived at the Park at about 10:05 p.m. At this time, no decision had been made as to the best route in to the fire. **Milligan followed a compass bearing from the Abol Campground, arriving at the fire scene at around 11:45 p.m.** His was the first eyewitness account of the fire. He stated that he had found the fire to be about 20 acres in size, burning briskly in a blow down fuel area.

"A D-7 and a D-8 were the first fire fighting units to arrive at the fire scene at daybreak. Milligan moved to the Togue Pond area that night and established a fire headquarters."

A retirement party for Roger will be held at the Bangor Motor Inn on December 4th at 6:00 p.m.

DOC Represented at Munsungan Conference

BPR Director Herb Hartman was a featured speaker at the first Munsungan Conference, "Recreation in Maine's Working Forest: An Examination of the Issues." Herb's presentation was titled "Forest Resources Recreational Demand." Scott Ramsay, supervisor of BPR's Off Road Vehicle Division, participated in a panel discussion, "Views of Suppliers and Users of Forest-Based Recreational Opportunities in Maine."

Other DOC staff attending the conference were Tom Morrison, Henry Whittemore and Steve Spencer, BPL; Tom Cieslinski, BPR; and Ed Meadows.