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What's Up, Doc? Summer 2001

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?

A NEWSLETTER FOR DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION EMPLOYEES

Summer 2001

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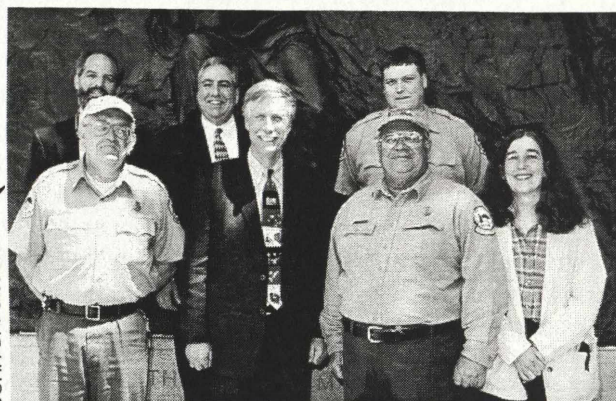
A message from the Commissioner

Tim Hall recently sent me a very powerful and touching letter that told of the loss, at a young age, of one of our fellow employees, one of our family. I appreciate that Tim Hall shared his experience with me and thought this letter might help us all pause and reflect a moment.

In the words of Tim Hall:

On Tuesday, July 17th, I traveled to Lubec as part of a delegation from the department to attend the funeral of David Jones. David, a 28 season veteran of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, died suddenly at his home at the age of 48, the victim of a heart attack. At the

World War 1 Sailors and Soldiers Memorial Dedication



John B. Poisson

Front row: Glenn Dochtermann, Governor King, Tom Collins, Sheila McDonald
Back row: Tom Morrison, Ron Lovaglio, Justin Colley

The Bureau of Parks and Lands re-dedicated the World War I Sailors and Soldiers Memorial at Maine's Route 1 gateway in Kittery on Thursday, May 31. Governor Angus King was the featured speaker at the

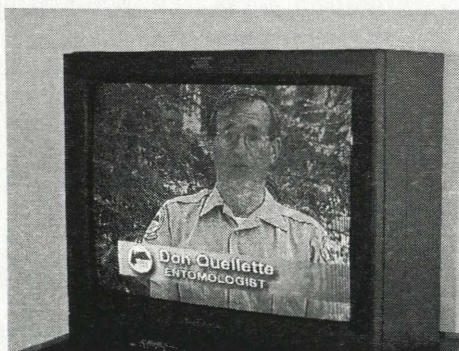
re-dedication ceremony, which celebrated the restoration of the memorial at John Paul Jones Memorial Park.

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2001 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Pest Identification Initiative:

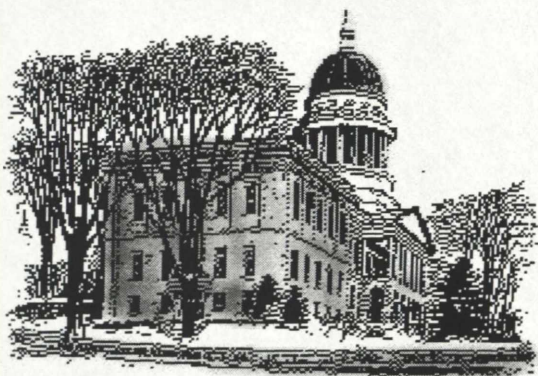
MFS staff responded to more than 250 calls.
12 confirmed cases of HWA resulting in:
43 infested trees located
38 trees removed
5 trees replaced



MFS Entomologist Don Ouellette appeared in a public service announcement that instructed homeowners how to check their hemlocks for the insect pest, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

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Capital Beat: DOC's Legislative Update - Dawn Gallagher

Finally, it's summertime in Maine again. The sun is shining, the waters are warm (okay almost), the parks are open, and the legislature is out.

This year was the longer six-month session that included passing a budget for the next two years. It was very difficult to predict how bills would fare and we spent considerable time "fighting fires."

Despite that, the session proved to be very successful for the Department. We tracked 169 bills, some of which we supported while others we opposed. Of the 169 bills, 56 were passed, eight carried over until January, and 105 defeated.

Highlights include passage of the following bills:

Budget: (Public Law 439)

In a year marked with no surpluses, we were still able to get a significant increase in Parks and Lands staffing.

We will be adding foresters for timber cutting on public lands and extending seasons for Parks and Lands staff.

Credit goes to Parks and Lands management and field staff who spent countless hours preparing

analyses and promoting the issue. The staffing changes are effective in late September.

LURC Subdivision Bill: (Public Law 431)

For over a decade, LURC had attempted to remove the 40-acre exemption for subdivision approval. (If you subdivided your land into at least 40-acre lots, you did not have to get subdivision approval from LURC regardless of the number of lots you created.)

The ACF Committee in a split decision voted the bill ought not to pass. After a lot of hard work and compromise language, several members of the committee changed their minds and by the time the bill was on the Senate calendar, it ended up being majority ought to pass. There were meetings with the Republican and Democratic caucuses; roadblocks on the Senate and House floor as legislators attempted to place amendments on the bill; and a last minute amendment we drafted to appease conservative Republicans.

Special credit goes to Andy Fisk of LURC for his diligence and refusing to accept defeat.

Outcome Based Forestry: (Public Law 339)

This was our bill that established test areas to conduct a standards-based forestry practices in lieu of traditional

command and control regulations.

The experiment allows landowners to work with the Maine Forest Service who will develop forest management plans based on sustainable practices such as water quality and biodiversity, and with results that provide as much protection as the forest practices act.

This was a very significant piece of legislation that is expected to provide hard data and scientific results for future planning purposes.

Thanks goes to the Forest Policy and Management Division, headed by Don Mansius.

DOC Bill Highlights include:

- ▶ Gas tax equity commission examining the tax going to the snowmobile, boating and ATV programs.
- ▶ Increasing snowmobile registration to provide funds for a capital equipment grant program.
- ▶ Ending snowmobile reciprocity with New Hampshire.
- ▶ Funding for community forestry if federal funds are not available.

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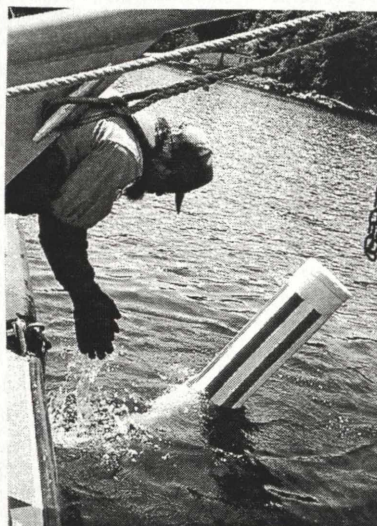
Acting Boating Facilities Director George Powell is interviewed by WMTW's Steve Minich about the buoy change.



Tim Thurston dons his safety gear as he pilots the boat into the lake.

Boating and Buoys

At a press event held June 25 at Sebago Lake State Park, the Boating Facilities Division took to the water to announce the navigational aids system change facing boaters. This summer Tim Thurston and Jeff DeHart will swap an estimated 400 buoys - nearly a third of the total 1,275 buoys maintained by BPL - to comply with the Federal, coastal waters system.



Jeff DeHart of the Navigational Aids program makes the buoy change while camera crews from Portland stations record the change.

Legislative Update

continued from page 2

- ▶ A \$2.9 million bond issue for snowmobile lanes and boating access from bridges.
- ▶ A grant program for foresters who want to get certified for doing third party audits of timber cutting and forestry operations.
- ▶ Requiring Maine Geological Survey to establish a plan for the erosion problems in Saco Bay.
- ▶ Establishing a milfoil initiative funded by a boat sticker program.
- ▶ Extending the committee examining public access on private and public lands.

Bills that were defeated include a bill abolishing LURC; establishing new specialty license plates; reducing tree growth tax benefits if you do not permit public access over your lands; forbidding clearcuts without a permit; requiring legislative approval of Land for Maine's Future purchases; and establishing a committee to review the Allagash Wilderness Waterway management plan and its status under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

I have prepared an eight-page summary and final status report of the bills that we tracked. If you want an

electronic copy, please send me an email at Gallagher, Dawn R under the state's email system, or dawn.r.gallagher@state.me.us on the Net.

I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of you that helped make this a successful legislative session.

You make my job easier and I truly appreciate your expertise and dedication.

Have a good summer.

Arbor Day Awards

On a spectacularly beautiful spring day, the Maine Forest Service presented a variety of environmental awards May 21 at a reception held on the Maine State House lawn. Maine's Arbor Week Celebration featured Governor Angus King as guest of honor who presented several of the following awards.

Tree City USA award recipients:

Augusta, Bath, Camden, Farmington, Kennebunkport, Portland, Orono, South Portland, Waterville, Westbrook and Yarmouth.

Outstanding Forest Stewardship Award recipients:

Sidney W. Emery of Springvale, Terry Walters of Hollis, Harry Dwyer of Kents Hill, Liz Frederic of Farmington, and Jack Frost of Anson.

Photo by Kevin Doran



National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest Winner

Leslie Wallace of Friendship. Leslie, a fifth-grader who attends the Friendship Village School, drew the winning poster depicting "Trees are Terrific, and Forests are Too!" Governor King and Commissioner Lovaglio presented Leslie with a plaque from the National Arbor Day Foundation and a \$100.00 savings bond.

Commissioner's Column

Continued from page 1

time of his death, he served as a seasonal assistant ranger with the Bureau at Quoddy Head State Park, a position he had held for many years.

There were about 10 of us from the department, dressed in full uniform for the occasion to honor David's tenure and service. In crowded church, many of us were quite surprised at what we saw; David's remains were dressed in his full park uniform. Two framed documents were placed on the casket: David's recognition certificate for 25 years of service, and a photograph of the lighthouse at Quoddy Head. David's DOC cap was also on display alongside an IF&W Supersport cap.

Next to David was a display of photographs from his life. Many of

those photos showed David at work at or around Quoddy Head on various occasions. One photograph displayed with pride was taken at the 1998 Employee Awards program, when David received his 25-year pin. The words inscribed on the photo's folder were included in the display.

It was obvious, from the way that David's family set up testimony to his life, that his work was the driving center of his life. Quoddy Head, the Bureau of Parks and Lands, and the Department of Conservation held deep meaning for David, probably in ways that we may never fully understand. That became even more clear as family members testified during the funeral to David's sense of loyalty to the park and his work there. David took fierce pride and received great reward in what he did, and was supported without

question by his loyal and loving family.

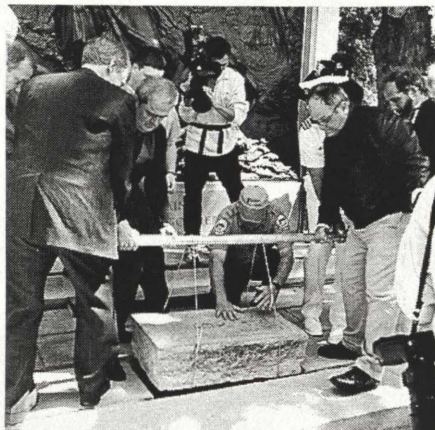
I learned something Tuesday. I think it has something to do with the way we treat our fellow employees in our professional relationships. I was thankful that I had known David enough to reinforce his love for Quoddy Head over the past five years, and to affirm his work. I came to realize that sometimes the small things, such as a few remarks written on a photograph, or a certificate of appreciation, can indeed be valued as prized possessions by their recipients. And I realized that right now is always a good time to say "thank you," or "well done," since we never know if there will ever be such an opportunity again.

Sailors and Soldiers Memorial

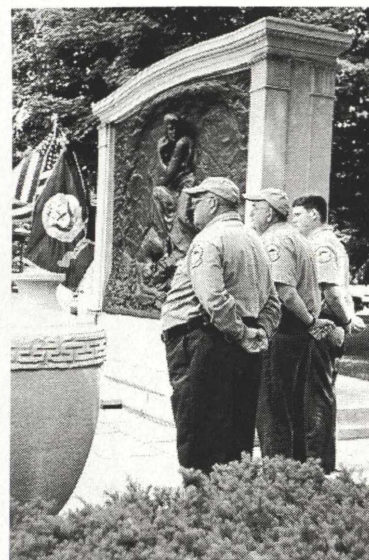


Sheila McDonald was recognized by Governor King and Commissioner Lovaglio for her efforts on the sculpture restoration project.

While researching the project, Sheila found articles describing a time capsule that was buried containing a letter from Governor Baxter. This led her to discover the capsule that was buried at the base of the Sailors and Soldiers Memorial statue.



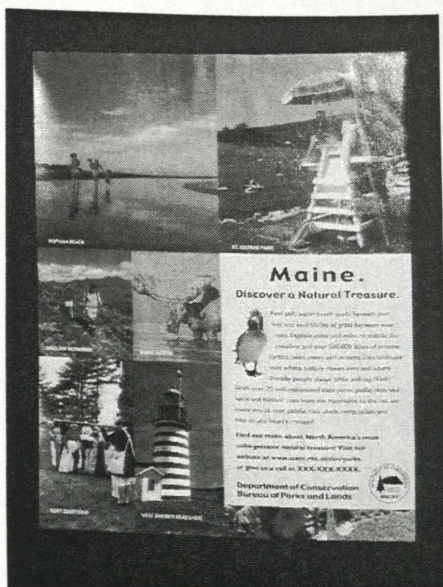
Governor King, assisted by Glenn Dochtermann and Tom Morrison (far right), lowers the granite slab encasing the capsule while TV and newspaper photographers record the event.



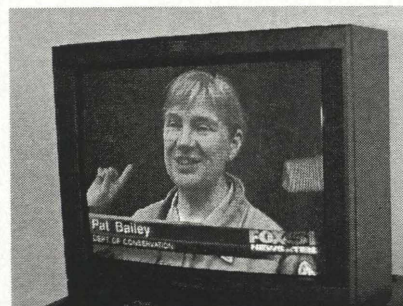
Park employees Tom Collins, Glenn Dochtermann and Justin Colley listen attentively to the speakers.

Photographs by John B. Poisson

Making Headlines



The Bureau of Parks and Lands displays its new print advertisement for the Maine Tourism Association's Maine Invites You distributed to 250,000 customers.



The Maine Forest Service and Bureau of Parks and Lands teamed up to combat the browntail moth, the insect pest which almost closed Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport during the spring. Seen above, Interpretive Specialist Pat Bailey described to reporters the steps taken at the park to protect the public from the moths.

At the same press conference, Dr. Philip Howse, inventor of a new moth trap that is placed in trees and contains no chemicals explained his invention.

DOC Employees Do Great Work!

Author: ABrais@entergy.com at Internet
Date: 3/2/01 2:10 PM
Normal
TO: Herb Hartman at DOC
Subject: Comment on Campground Reservation
----- Message Contents

Good Afternoon

Today, I booked a reservation for this summer to camp at Camden Hills State Park. This will be our families first visit to Maine to camp. We wanted to book early to ensure a good site that fit our vacation times and preferences. After looking at availability on the website, I called the park directly to discuss specific campsites to see which ones would best suit our families needs. And today I booked the reservation via the telephone. By far this was the most pleasurable experience that I have ever had in making a reservation. The individual at the state park (assuming it was the park manager as it was after hours) was very courteous and bent over backwards to help me. Made sure all my questions were answered. The reservation person also was a pure joy to talk with. Answered my questions, was not in a rush, and was very helpful. And from the tone of her voice, really enjoying her job. And the website was a joy to use. Found it to be very easy to navigate and the information was excellent.

In summary, GREAT JOB. I was very impressed and can't wait to visit. Keep up the good work. A great initial image of Maine has been conveyed.

Anthony, Chris, & Sean)

Brais Family (Tony, Liz,
Liverpool, New York

Make-A-Wish Foundation
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87 Elm Street, Suite 203
Camden, Maine 04843
207 236-3171
800 491-3171
207 236-4945 fax
www.wish.org

MAKE-A-WISH

May 25, 2001

Dear Charlene (+Doc),

On behalf of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine, I thank you for helping me assemble a wonderful package of "goodies" to supplement the State Park 2-night Camping Gift Certificate for our wish child, Michael.

Michael loves the outdoors and camping, and it is likely the certificate will be used to camp at Mt. Blue State Park (his favorite!!)

Your kind donation of the two additional day-passes

to any State Park will extend possibilities for him to enjoy shorter excursions with his family. The brochures and information on each State Park will excite his imagination for new places to camp and swim... his two favorite activities!

Thank you for helping make a wish come true.

Sincerely,

Deb McLaggan
M.A.W.

volunteer wish-granter

Employee News

Anniversaries

35 Years

Richard Dearborn
James McMullen

30 Years

Brad Barrett
Donald Cote
Robin Smith

25 Years

Russell Landry
Matt LaRoche
Mike Leighton
Tom Parent

20 Years

Gary Cook
Scott Thompson

15 Years

Jon Blackstone
Susan Buck
Roger Dicker
Steven Garron
Gregg Hesslein
David Tardiff

Employee Recognition Days

Transitions

Andy Fisk, Senior Planner formerly of LURC, has transferred to the Department of Marine Resources as a Policy Development Specialist

Mark your calendars to attend Employee Recognition Day at the Augusta Civic Center or one of the following regional locations:

Augusta:	September 12
Presque Isle:	September 14
Lewiston:	September 19
Portland:	September 20
Bangor:	September 21

What's New at Range Ponds State Park

The first beach-to-water wheelchair ramp of Maine's State Park system was opened to the delight of an enthusiastic crowd on August 2.. The ramp - along with a group shelter, an educational center, new playgrounds, a portion of the repair costs to Range Ponds dam, and a conservation easement - were funded as part of an agreement to allow Poland Spring Water to extract water from Park property.



At the ribbon cutting ceremony Commissioner Lovaglio, Rep. Snowe-Mello, Poland Spring Manager Kristin Tardif, and Park Manager Gordeen Skolfield opened Maine's first beach-to-water wheelchair ramp to the public.



Kids ham it up for the TV camera crew while enjoying their time on the new playground made possible by the Bureau's agreement with Poland Spring Water Company.

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This newsletter is published for employees of the
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