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What's Up, Doc? Winter 2000

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?

A NEWSLETTER FOR DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION EMPLOYEES

Winter 2000

A message from the Commissioner

This newsletter finds us in the second session of the 119th Legislature and includes the 10-year review of the Department as required by the Government Evaluation Act (GEA). Under the leadership of **Deputy Commissioner Dawn Gallagher**, staff produced and presented the 100-page GEA report to the ACF Committee on January 3, describing our legislative mandates and future goals.

After reviewing the report, the ACF Committee unanimously accepted it on February 7. The final GEA report makes a fantastic reference and short history of the department, including our

Continued on Page 7

LIBRARY USE ONLY Campground Reservations Opening Day

It's Monday morning, January 3, 2000 and 9:00am signals the Opening Day of the 2000 Campground Reservations season.

By day's end, **Charlene Daniels, Rebecca Hinton, Elaine Pepler, Brenda Maddox and Candace Morgan** of the Reservations Office confirmed a record-breaking number of requests in the office's 12-year history.

During Monday, 25 people stood in line, close to 1000 faxes and e-mails poured in, and callers jammed the



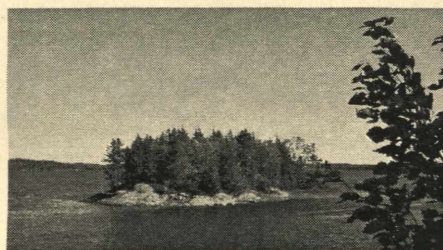
Charlene Daniels, supervisor of the Maine State Park Reservations Office, greets people lined up for Opening Day.

Tom Driscoll

phone lines. It seemed everyone wanted to pitch their tent at a Maine State Park campsite this summer!

For the first month of 2000, totals

Continued on Page 4



This is the view from Cobscook State Park's campground, one of the 12 Maine State Parks with campgrounds.

In 1999
Park attendance
increased 9%
2.4 million

people visited and camped
at state parks and historic sites.

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FEB 17 2000



Front row: Richard Hook, Jim Rea.
Back row: Scott Woodruff, Tom Driscoll.

Y2K: The Final Word

At a January 10, 2000 Lead Team meeting, the Information Systems Team received Recognition Certificates acknowledging their efforts during the transition to the Year 2000.

Following the presentation, the IS Team certified the chocolate cake was Y2K-compatible.

New Year's Eve 1999.
Millions watch the historic
countdown.
Elaborate firework displays erupt
throughout the world.
Many wait for the wrath of the
infamous Y2K bug.
Then, nothing. Sigh of relief.

Where were you on December
31, 1999 as the calendar
catapulted into 2000? Here at the
Department of Conservation,
**Network Administrator Richard
Hook**, had the 13-system servers
and eight e-mail "routers" turned
down to idle. Desktop and
notebook purchase were turned
off.

When asked for his retrospective
on the whole Y2k saga, Richard
replied, "I have two sentences: I
am glad it's over. I hope to never
hear about it again."

Media reports later declare that
government and business were
overzealous in the Y2K
preparations. Well, "nothing"
happened on January 1, 2000
because we were prepared.

Last summer, the IS Team and

several Conservation employees
assessed our computer system for
the Price Waterhouse audit. This
Department was one of a handful
receiving a gold star from the audit.

Desktop computers, park septic
systems, forestry towers, computer
systems, business applications,
computer hardware, radios, aircraft,





approached, people called
more often for reassurance that
their own equipment wouldn't fail.
We would review their situation
and address their concerns.

Even though nothing "bad"
happened, the diagnoses gave
us the opportunity to update our
equipment inventory along with
many of our older systems. This will
enable us to offer better IS
resources to the department.

"Our IS Team did a tremendous
job preparing us for Y2K,"
applauded **General Service
Director Will Harris**. "We
especially appreciate the
employees who spent a portion of
New Year's Day checking facilities
to make sure everything was OK.

It was a great team effort!" ❖

IS Team's Y2K Check List

	Computers: 300
	Networks: 10
	State parks: 35
	Regional offices: 27

fax, cash registers, vehicles
comprised the Y2K check-off list. You
name it, the IS Team checked it.

"The biggest challenge was dealing
with the perception of a possible
failure even though we had checked
about everything," remarked **Acting
IS Manager Tom Driscoll**. "We
behaved like Santa, making a list and
checking it twice - at least."

Tom recalls that as the time

The Woods in Your Backyard

Discover ways to improve your backyard for wildlife, how to grow shiitake mushrooms, and steps to take to decrease the risk of fire in the recently published guide, *The Woods In Your Backyard*.

Natural Science Educator Christine R. Parrish of the Maine Forest Service authored a 90-page publication focusing on the landowners who own woodlands that are less than 10 acres in size.

"Runaway development occurring at the edges of towns and cities in much of the state impacts these homeowners," writes Parrish, "and *The Woods in Your Backyard* shows readers ways to reconnect with the land."

There are 1000 copies of the publication still available; call the Maine Forest Service at 1-800-367-0223 to get a free copy. (One per request.) ❖

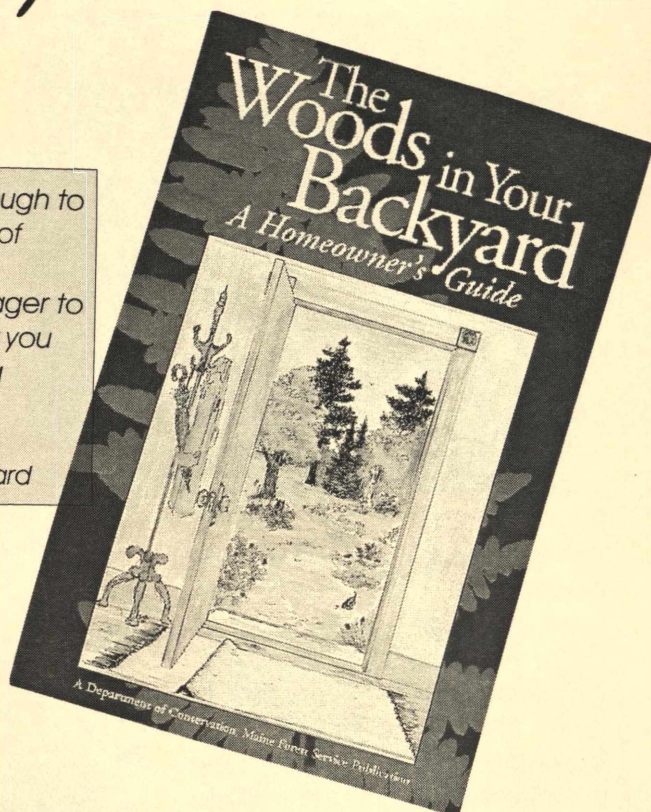
CCC Statue

The Maine Chapter of the Civilian Conservation Corp alumni is proposing to erect a bronze statue on the state house grounds honoring the men of the CCC.

Legislation has been introduced to authorize the erection of the statue. For more information or to assist with the effort, contact -

Phil Gouzie
CCC Alumni, Maine Chapter
30 Arlington Road
S. Portland, ME 04106
cccboy111@aol.com
799-1419 ❖

"If you were lucky enough to grow up near a patch of woods, you probably remember being so eager to get outside to play that you could barely sit still long enough to finish your breakfast."
-*The Woods in Your Backyard*



Look for the MFS Booth at these shows:

March 8-12: Portland Flower Show

Booth is located in the Educational Section and the show's venue will be listed in advertisements.

March 25: Maine Garden Day

Slide show and discussion. Homeowner guides available. Contact Waldo County Cooperative Extension for more information at 800-924-4909.

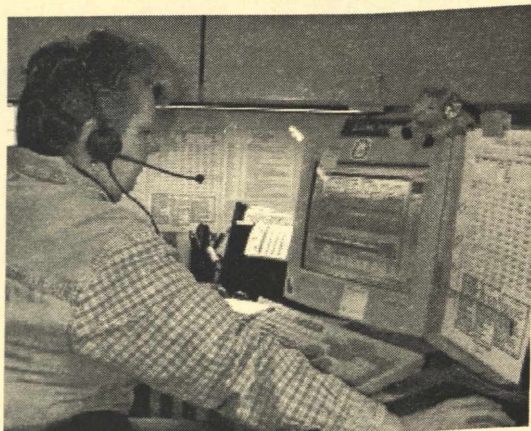
March 25, 2:00 pm: Ellsworth Library

Slide show and discussion. Homeowner Guides available. Contact Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information at 667-8663. Free admission

April 6 - April 9: Bangor Flower Show

Booth will be in the Educational Section. Location of the show will be listed in advertisements.

Happy Campers



Veteran Reservations Clerk **Elaine Pepler** walks a caller through the reservations process.

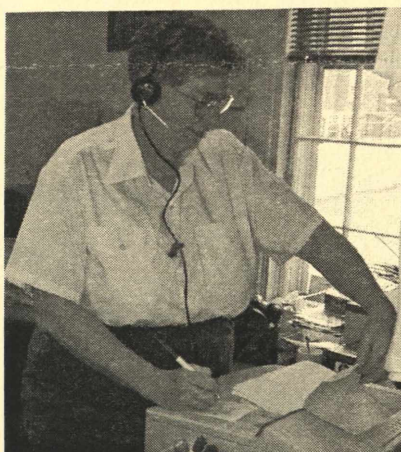
Elaine has been with the Reservations Office since its inception in 1988.

smashed past years' records. An astounding 1909 reservations were confirmed compared to 1530 in January of 1999. **Charlene Daniels**, supervisor of the **Maine State Park Reservations Office**, attributes the Internet site, and the trend to confirm a reservation as early in the season as possible, to the increase in requests.

"The Maine State Park Reservations Staff is the best!" declares **Supervisor Daniels**. "Despite the record number of requests, our staff accommodates campers' requests while maintaining the highest professional standard."

Twelve state parks maintain campgrounds, and Sebago Lake State Park is the largest camping park with 249 sites. The camping season averages from mid-May through mid-October.

To make a reservation from within Maine, call the Reservations Office at 1-800-322-1501, weekdays from 9:00am - 4:00pm. ❖



Rebecca Hinton checks the fax machine. In January, 310 requests were made via fax.



This full-page advertisement inviting visitors to state parks runs in "Maine Invites You", and features the web site address.

Last year, one in nine reservations came in through the department's web site. This January, almost half of reservations came in through the site.

January 2000

Total Reservations* 1909

Phone	1079
Internet	501
FAX	310
Walk in	110
US Mail	67

* Represents total reservations confirmed, less cancellations. A total of 2067 reservations were received by the staff.

Photographs by Tom Driscoll

A Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On

The first one was a novelty. The second was the source of water-cooler conversation. The third ignited some serious debate.

Within the last month, three earthquakes jolted Maine's *terra firma*, leaving residents feeling a little less confident.

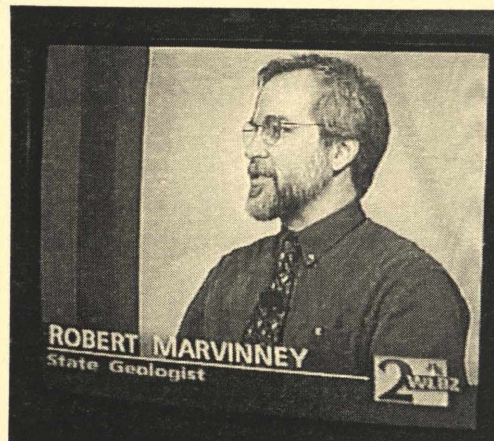
"From the number of events that have occurred recently in New England, it may seem that something unusual is happening in the crust here, says **State Geologist Robert Marvinney**. "In a typical year, though, Maine

usually experiences several earthquakes of magnitude 3 or less." Bob adds that the recurrence interval for earthquakes up to 3.5 is only a few years so there is a good possibility of experiencing one or two of these in any year.

So what are the chances that we experience, "The Big One!?" According to Bob, the largest earthquake Maine ever experienced was in Eastport in 1904.

"Without modern instruments we can only estimate the magnitude as 5.9 on the Richter scale from the felt effects that people recorded at the time," reports the State Geologist. "Our best estimate of a recurrence interval for earthquakes of this magnitude in Maine is about 300 years."

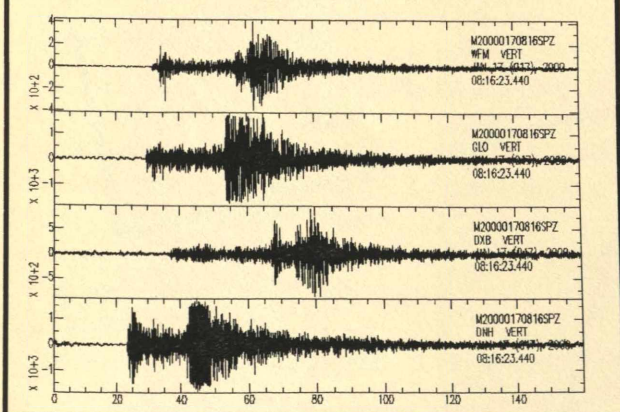
Three hundred years. We can live with that. ♦



Courtesy of WLBZ-TV, Channel 2

State Geologist Robert Marvinney is interviewed on WLBZ-TV's 5:30 pm newscast, Tuesday January 4, 2000.

Seismogram of January 17, 2000 Earthquake



Seismograms of the January 17 earthquake near Rumford as recorded by four stations in Vermont. The seismograms show several different phases of earthquake waves progressing from left to right. The slightly different arrival times of the first wave at each station are used to compute the distance to the epicenter. Source: New England Seismic Network

Earthquake Questionnaire

If you felt one of the earthquakes, the Maine Geological Survey wants to hear from you. The Earthquake Questionnaire asks individuals about their quake experience. You can find it on the Maine State home page at www.state.me.us or call MGS at 287-2801 for a form. To date, more than 600 people have filled out the questionnaire.

DOC Employees Do Great Work!

October 22, 1999

Bureau of Parks & Lands
22 State House Station
August, ME 0433-0022

ATTN: Tom Morrison, Director

RE: Louis Stanley, Cobscook State Park Ranger

Dear Mr. Morrison:

It was our pleasure to spend a week during the month of July at Cobscook State Park. This was my family's first visit to this beautiful park. After we settled in on our first day, my twin girls and I decided to explore the park. As I was driving down the road, the transmission in our Caravan died. Stranded on the road, not too far from our campsite, Lou Stanley came along and stopped and looked at the engine. He called Stuart Wagner and then they both helped push the caravan back to our campsite.

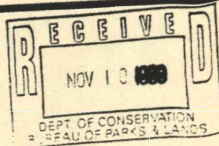
We made arrangements the next day to have the caravan towed to a transmission specialist in St. Stephens. After my husband returned from St. Stephen's on a Friday afternoon, we found out that they would not be able to start working on the transmission until Monday. We were planning to rent a car, when Lou Stanley told my husband that he had a car in his driveway that we could borrow. Can you believe that this man who didn't know us made such a generous offer? Well we took him up on this generous offer and as we were sitting at our campsite he delivered us his car and told us to enjoy.

We were very grateful as you can imagine. We were able to continue our vacation and enjoy the beautiful countryside and even took a trip to Campobello. My only regret is writing this letter so late, but we didn't return home until after school started in September. This is the first opportunity I had to write and praise Lou Stanley's kindness and generosity, which will never be forgotten in the Cunningham family. All the staff at Cobscook is wonderful. They truly made our vacation a memory that we will never forget. We just wanted you to know how great they really are!!!!

Sincerely,

The Cunningham Family
Susan
Michael
Erin
Rachael
And Olly (the cat)

PS -
Can we nominate Lou for Ranger of the Year?



"LA PORTE DU NORD"

NORTHERN DOOR INN

RECEIVED

NOV 30 1999

91 West Main Street * Fort Kent, Maine 04743 * Phone: 207-338-1111 * www.northerndoorinn.com
Email: northerndoorinn@northerndoorinn.com * www.northerndoorinn.com

DEPT OF CONSERVATION
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

November 18, 1999

Dear Commissioner:

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Forest Ranger who came to my assistance Saturday Oct. 30, 1999. In my dire need of help and thinking only of how soon I could get back to the hunting trail, I neglected to ask the names of the two young men who were a godsend to me when I was stranded on the Pinkham Rd. (Mile 32) with two flats.

The service and courtesy that was extended to me by these two angels of mercy leaves no doubt in my mind that you do an outstanding job in training your recruits. They are a credit to their profession.

Again my heartfelt thanks,

Ecl Allen

Borges: Todd Weeks
Justin Caeney

RICHARD N. BERRY
650 BRIGHTON AVENUE
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102-1035
207-774-8214
FAX 207-874-2902

30 December 1999

Robert G. Marvinney
State Geologist
Maine Geological Survey
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Dear Mr. Marvinney:

My recent purchase of a quantity of bulletins, maps, and other publications was very quickly and efficiently processed by Christine Sanscouci at your reception and sales desk.

She was able to decipher some rather obscure handwriting in my scribbled notes, found the items in different files, and was quite cheerful and helpful throughout.

A fine member of your team.

Cordially,

Richard Berry

Department of Conservation Employee News

New Hires

General Services
Don Hildebrand
IS Manager

LURC
Resource Administrator
Peggy Dwyer

Parks and Lands
Engineering Tech IV
Thomas Small

DOC Anniversaries

20 Years:
Robert Johnston
Paul Perry

10 Years:
David Allen
Charles Corliss
Robert McKee
George Ritz

5 Years:
Jim Blanck

Correction

In the Fall Edition of What's Up DOC Pat Cormier's position was incorrectly listed as Forest Ranger. Pat was hired last June as a Field Forester with the Maine Forest Service.

Retirees

30 Years
Tom Cieslinski

25 Years
Steve Harding

Commissioner's Column *Continued from Page 1*

accomplishments and goals. The ACF Committee has been very pleased with our performance and we've received compliments from our members. Of special note was their reference to LURC as "working well" and satisfaction with LURC's direction and progress to reduce permit times.

The last newsletter outlined our mission, goals and objectives. It spoke of the "What" we want to accomplish. Today I want to emphasize "How" we want to accomplish these goals. In a

sentence, I would say we want to work safely through teamwork while providing excellent customer service, leadership and fiscal responsibility.

Safety - Teamwork - Customer Service -
Leadership - Budget

If we can remember these five things, we will be exceedingly successful in accomplishing our goal. I think it's success in those areas, particularly customer service and budget, that have raised the Legislature's confidence in the DOC that has been reflected in a positive

response to the GEA.

"It ain't over till it's over," but indications are the Legislature appreciates our hard work and conscientiousness.

If you watched last year's World Series, you know baseball is won 90 feet at a time. Likewise, customer loyalty, appreciation and confidence is won--one employee at a time. Each one of you individually has contributed to the Legislature's confidence in us as a department. ♦

Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

This newsletter is published for employees of the
Department of Conservation.

Submit story ideas to:

Susan Benson, Editor
susan.benson@state.me.us
(207) 287-4909

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AUGUSTA, MAINE

Send in your story idea for the next issue of "What's Up, DOC?"

*An Earthquake on the
Rise?
State Geologist Marvinnery
Explains.
Story on Page 5*

Portland Press
WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 6, 2000

Pair of earthquakes just coincidental

- Mainers who felt Monday's quake in Turner are asked to fill out a questionnaire.

"Earthquake timing and locations in Maine are almost random. The two events are unrelated."

Robert Marvinnery,
Maine state geologist