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# What's Up, Doc? November 1997

Maine Department of Conservation

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# What's Up, DOC?

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Issue 11

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

November 1997

## LURCMan Travels Alone:

*(Or, what do those LURC folks do in the field, anyway?)*

by John Williams

Have you ever wondered what the LURC field staff do? **Tim Spahr** was fond of saying that "LURCMan travels alone." Tim has moved on to be a game warden, but he was right!

The LURC field staff work by themselves for the most part, out of the view of those of us in Augusta. To reflect current times, we'll update his saying to: "LURCPerson travels alone" and welcome **Lisa Dalrymple** who has taken Tim's place in our Rangeley office.

To understand what the field staff do, I spend a day each fall accompanying the regional *LURCPersons*. I could write a book on these visits, but let me illustrate by describing a recent day spent in Washington and Hancock Counties with **Charlie Corliss**. Charlie and I headed west to Hancock County where we examined a proposed private boat launch to determine whether it could be constructed without disturbing Spring River Lake. We observed a number of camps and additions, some permitted and some not, and discussed what to do with those who were not in compliance.

Later that day, we drove east to investigate complaints about drawdowns of water from Schoodic Lake, which was being utilized as a source of irrigation water by blueberry growers. Charlie remembered seeing the lake equally low many times in the past, before it was used for irrigation; however, we also checked out some smaller ponds, nearly dry from heavy irrigation. Charlie observed that on one pond the pump had been moved below the normal high water mark, causing disruption of the lake bottom. He found a representative of the blueberry company, and let him know in a nice but firm manner that the pump needed to be moved and not to do it again.

After viewing a few more grandfathered camps, it was getting late, and I regretfully declined Charlie's offer to visit land he was working on with **Sara Brusila**, who handles permitting for the Down East region.

My days with the other field staff have been equally interesting, and have impressed me with the diversity of activities that our *LURCPersons* encounter. Landowners see the DOC uniform, and start asking questions from "Can I rebuild this camp 10 feet from the water if I keep one wall in place?" to "How many water bars do I need in this stretch of road?" Then, there's the current favorite: "Is it OK if I start a pig farm?"

*(continued on page two)*

## The 50th Anniversary of the 1947 Fires

The Maine Forest Service, Hancock County Fireman's Association, Bar Harbor Fire Department and Acadia National Park marked the 50th anniversary of the 1947 fires on October 11 in Bar Harbor. A parade route-- which followed parts of the actual burn area and fire line--originated in Trenton and concluded in Bar Harbor. Forest Service Director **Chuck Gadzik** spoke about the overall effects of the conflagration and the resulting changes in fire fighting techniques. A wreath ceremony honoring those who died during the disastrous fires capped-off the day's events.

Several pieces of both old and new fire equipment were on display; the fire control division displayed its new tractor trailer and track vehicle to the public. Fire Control Supervisor **Tom Parent** and Rangers **Billy Getchell**, **Rick Henion** and **Jim Downie** coordinated the event.



## MOOOOOOSE SEASON

Relative quiet was reported from the Allagash Wilderness Waterway during the state's busy Moose season, according to park manager **Tim Caverly**. Tim reports that about 100 people stopped at the Chamberlain Bridge Ranger Station on opening day of the season.



### Maine Forest Service Rangers Blazing the Way

Maine Forest Service Rangers are presently teaching instructors from the Maine Fire Training and Education Program about the Incident Command System. This training was requested by the Fire Training organization. The course ran for the month of October, and covered more than 40 hours of instruction. Rangers teaching include: **Brad Barrett, Harry Doughty, Steve Harding, Alan Johnston, Andy Mendes, Joe Pelletier, Bruce Reed, and Mike Ricci.**

The Maine State Police has also requested the Fire Control Division to teach future troopers various courses at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. In fact, the Fire Control Division has been involved in the Incident Command System since its inception and are considered leaders in the area. Last winter, the division held a joint training session with the Maine State Police, preparing for possible future large forest fires and other emergencies.

The Department of Environmental Protection is also being taught the Incident Command System. This course which began on October 7, will eventually conclude on January 13 of next year.

### Transitions

**Dawn Gallagher** joined the Department of Conservation as our new Assistant to the Commissioner on October 14.

**Tim Russell** joined the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands off Road Vehicle Division on September 29

*Welcome Dawn and Tim!*

### (continued from page one) LURCMan Travels Alone

Each time I take a field visit, I am amazed at the breadth of knowledge each *LURC* Person demonstrates and I've been most impressed when our staff face potentially confrontational situations. For example, on one site visit, **Don Cote** and I observed a contractor digging a foundation - without a permit - and in a manner allowing sedimentation to enter a lake. Don calmly advised the contractor to stop; advised him to immediately control sedimentation with the use of hay bales; reminded him of our regulations and possible penalties; and then left. Later that day Don checked his messages. The landowner had called four times to let Don know that all work had stopped, and that he would like to set up a permit meeting with Don to ensure the remaining work was done properly.

I have witnessed similar encounters as I traveled with **Gordon Moore** on Ambejejus Lake, **Dave Tardiff** on Plunkett Pond, **Bob McKee** on Kingsbury Pond. These *LURC* Persons remained calm but firm, explained why the activity was in violation, suggested immediate measures to minimize threats to water quality, and reminded the violator of the penalties that could be imposed if the activity continued.

Currently we have six field people, each responsible for a region approximately 2 million acres in size. They operate out of offices in Rangeley, Moscow, Greenville, Millinocket, Jonesboro and Ashland. Field staff are teamed with permitters operating out of Augusta who are responsible for the same regions. Our plan is to gradually move permitting positions to the field offices as vacancies develop. This will increase our presence in the areas we serve, and will help the field staff deal with their large regions of responsibility. It may alter Tim's saying, however. "*LURC* Persons travel in pairs" just doesn't have the same ring!

### Adieu, Mes Amis

We offer thanks to two more park managers who have moved into the status we call "seasonal leave." Many thanks for a great season go to **Jay McIntosh** at Lamoine State Park, and **Bill Elliot** at Peaks-Kenny State Park. We hear that Jay will begin life after Lamoine by assisting the crew of a 65 foot motor yacht on a voyage from Maine to Florida. **Tough duty!**





Author: SRFNRN@aol.com at Internet  
Date: 10/16/97 4:04 AM  
Priority: Normal  
TO: /s=webmaster(u)doc/prmd=Mainegovt/admd= /c=US/ at mailhub  
BCC: Susan Benson at DOC  
Subject: Maine Visit

No question, just a comment.

I just returned from an Oct. 5-12 visit to New Hampshire and Maine. It was my first trip to this area and I was very hopeful that I would could "catch" some pretty scenery.

Of course, I can't describe how beautiful it was. From the White Mountains in NH, to Acadia and down the coastline back to Boston, I have never seen such beautiful towns, coastal views, and incredible foliage. The weather was perfect, and the temperatures were delightful. The photos I took can't do justice to the color and vibrance of the trees going through their fall change.

Everyone I met was so friendly and helpful. Although the tourist influx at this time of year must be trying on all the locals, I never received anything but the kindest treatment, comments, and suggestions.

I hope to return again some day; in the meantime I will make do with great memories of a lovely state.

Joy  
Montgomery, Alabama

Fall

Foliage

Feedback

Author: js1@contrib.beehive.de at Internet  
Date: 10/5/97 4:27 AM  
Priority: Normal  
TO: /s=webmaster(u)doc/prmd=Mainegovt/admd= /c=US/ at mailhub  
BCC: Susan Benson at DOC  
Subject: Globalization of Maine Fall Foliage

Dear Leaf Lady,

You may be interested in learning that this morning's edition of the "Berliner Morgenpost," in circulation under the title "Cybertravels" your contains in its "Bites and Bytes" section under the subject of photos of fall in foliage New England. The paper and Bytes probably picked up the subject of a sudden miss the maple reds (and, of show England site. (as I did). So, if all of a sudden miss the maple reds (and, of fall an unusual from HotFlash in traffic from Berlin, you now know why. Although fall can also be lovely here, I do indeed miss the maple reds (and, of course, the lobster!). Have a good week.

Jim  
Berlin, Germany

STUDIO GUERRA - PIGA  
00196 ROMA - VIA GIROLAMO DA CARPI, 6 - TEL. 322.78.47 - 322.78.50 - FAX 361.20.03

Rome, October 27th, 1997

AVV. PIETRO GUERRA  
AVV. MARCELLO PIGA  
AVV. GUGLIELMO PENICOLI  
AVV. PAOLO D'ACOSTINI  
AVV. RICCARDO STEINER  
AVV. RICCARDO LETTA  
AVV. PAOLA MALPATTI  
AVV. ALESSANDRO PAZZAGLIA  
AVV. CRISTINA GUERRA  
AVV. ANNA SISTOPOLI  
AVV. FRANCESCO ALBERTOLI  
AVV. LUIGI ALESSANDRO  
COMMERCIALISTI  
DR. ALESSANDRA PIGA  
DR. VINCENZO SANQUIGNI  
DR. CORRADO TRANSERICI

Ms Gale Ross  
Dept of Conservation  
MAINE (USA)  
(FAX 001 207 / 287 24 00)

Thank you for your communications: I have made a wonderful trip in Maine.  
Best regards

Pietro Guerra



Tom Rumpf and Annee Tara  
5 Main Street, P.O. Box 819  
South Freeport, Maine 04078

October 13, 1997

Tom Morrison, Director  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Maine Department of Conservation  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Tom:

Earlier today we, along with what must have been hundreds of our neighbors, went to Bradbury Mountain State Park. Shortly before we arrived, we realized that we had both left the house without any money. When we got to the gate, we explained our situation and asked about "friendly credit terms."

Your Park Ranger was very gracious and said we could write them a check when we got home. He gave us a brochure with a trail map and the address of the Park. And we are, of course, sending the check this very afternoon.

We want you to know how much we appreciate being treated with respect, being trusted for the \$4 and being made to feel like this was indeed *our* park. We did not get the name of the Park staff person but you should know that they are a credit to the Department and to the State's reputation for hospitality.

Congratulations on having a culture that values the people for whom we build and maintain parks!

Sincerely,

A & T

Professionalism

Practiced

Here!

State of Maine  
Department of Conservation  
Maine Land Use Regulation Commission  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022  
Mr. John S. Williams, Director

Dear Mr. Williams:

My husband and I wanted to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation for the two very positive experiences we have had working with your organization, specifically with Mr. Scott Whitney. We understand that it is not easy to provide services in the public sector, so when we have such excellent experiences we want to make sure that we acknowledge the efforts.

We have worked through the process of obtaining two separate building permits in the Winterville area. Both times Mr. Whitney was assigned as our "case worker" and both times we were pleasantly surprised with his knowledge, understanding of requirements and willingness to help us pull together all of the required documents. It made what could have been (and has been in Massachusetts) a very frustrating experience one that was clear and easy to complete.

Please accept our thanks for the efforts of Mr. Whitney and others in the office who supported his efforts.

Sincerely,

Christina K. Szoka  
Greg Rheault  
22 Sherman Place  
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801



10/21/97

RECEIVED  
OCT 27 1997  
AUGUSTA

Subject: Lily Bay  
Author: clworks@cybertours.com at Internet  
Date: 10/9/97 10:05 PM  
Forward Header

Dear Sir or Madam,  
I am writing to express my appreciation with the management and staff of Lily Bay State Park this summer. We stayed at the park the week of Aug. 22-Aug. 30. The staff was pleasant and helpful and did many things to ensure that our stay was enjoyable. Andy, the head ranger, is a great asset to the state park system.  
Carl Works  
32 Market St.  
PO Box 49  
North Berwick, ME 03906-0049



### It's a Wrap!

The frost is on the pumpkin, and the leaves on the ground. It's time for many state parks and historic sites to close up for the season following a spectacular fall foliage season. Most campgrounds and many day areas closed on October 15, although some managers report that areas will be kept open as long as weather conditions permit. **Gordon Bell** will attempt to keep the Mt. Battie Road open to traffic through October 31 unless freezing conditions make travel dangerous. A note to all our visitors: Maine State Parks and Historic Sites are always accessible for use from 9:00 am to sunset, even if gates are closed (unless posted otherwise due to operational constraints). Just park outside and come on in for the fresh air and exercise.

### MSECCA Update

Gale Ross

Could you spare \$10.50 for a good cause? If every one of the remaining 316 DOC employees donated \$10.50 each, we'll reach our department goal of \$6,500. Week four of the Maine State Employees Combined Charitable Appeal puts us well on our way of reaching the State's goal of 260,000, with \$172,600 raised. So far DOC employees have contributed \$3,181 or 49 percent.

A huge thanks to all those who have so generously contributed to date. Those donations will help fire victims, provide day care for pre-schoolers and assist parents in developing positive parenting skills. If you haven't donated yet, pick your favorite cause and make a difference!

And did you know that a raffle was held recently in Augusta, but no one won the 1998 Ford Explorer yet! *(Just kidding!)*

### Safety

Debra Phillips

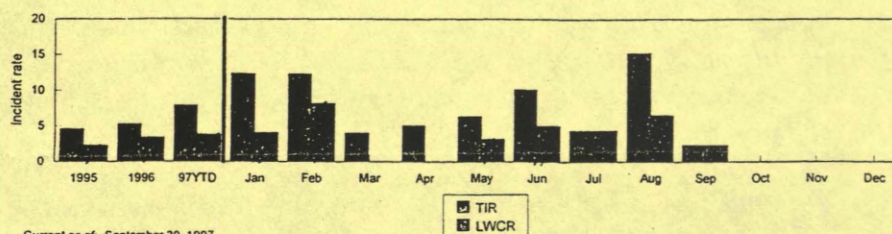
September's safety statistics were greatly improved from August's. In fact they were the lowest for the entire year so far! Good job! The department's recently established Employee Health and Safety Committee is up and running, and have held two meetings to date. Periodic updates and news flashes from the Committee will be in future *What's Up, DOC* newsletters. Committee members are listed below. Please feel free to contact any of these people with suggestions, questions, or concerns you might have regarding employee health and safety. Phone numbers are listed or you can contact members by e-mail.

### Committee Members

Marc Albert, Parks & Lands	778-8235
Russ Beauchemin, Fire Control	435-7963
Jim Downie, Fire Control	827-6191
Debbie Everett, ACE	287-4926
Chuck Gadzik, MFS	287-2791
John Hinkley, Parks & Lands	778-8234
John Leavitt, Fire Control	1-800-750-9777
Bob McKee, LURC	287-7116
Craig Neil, NRICM	287-7172
Mick Rogers, Parks & Lands	688-4712
Debra Phillips, Personnel	287-4925
Les Thornton, Fire Control	549-7081

### Department of Conservation

OSHA Recordable Incidents/ Safety Report



Current as of: September 30, 1997

### Limited Editions Featuring Fort Knox

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8. The Friends of Fort Knox are sponsoring an Art Show and Sale on that day from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bucksport High School (Broadway Ext. Bucksport). During the show the Friends will be unveiling and offering for sale limited edition prints of Fort Knox by Ken Brooks and Brent Hall. All proceeds benefit the Friends and the Fort.



## Foliage Report Peaks Worldwide Internet Interest

- Susan Benson

This Foliage season the Maine Department of Conservation made history with the fall foliage report receiving worldwide exposure on the Internet. Word quickly spread once USA Today marked the cyberspace address on its "Hot Spot" page September 19, and to date, more than 60,000 "cybersurfing leaf peepers" have visited the site. That's more than 10 times the number from 1996!

### Thanks to these Department of Conservation employees -

Scott Bates, Bruce Farnham, Otis Gray, Bill Hamilton, Ed Jones, Darcy Labbe, Tom Parent,  
John B. Poisson, Mick Rogers, Gale Ross, Robert Tucker, and Levi Walton

E-mails that poured in during the campaign -more than 400 specific requests- prompted the typical responses like where and when to go for peak foliage, but some were very unique. Katrina from Berlin, Germany, remarked that she wanted to visit Maine, but was scared because Stephen King lives here. Another surfer asked if male maple trees produced one color of leaves and female maple trees another. A kindergarten student from Scarborough asked if the Leaf Lady knew how many trees there were in the world! I replied that she had stumped the Leaf Lady, but I could tell her that we have approximately 17.6 billion trees in the state of Maine!

Many reporters asked me if the presence of virtual foliage would deter potential peepers from actually visiting the state. I replied that folks had to experience the autumnal splendor in person and in "real time."

One group of cybersurfing leaf peepers that visited week after week was former Mainers who now live "away." "I moved to Maryland from Maine 5 years ago. I always miss the peak season but thanks to the great pictures on the Internet I can recapture a bit of my home," wrote Kristen. "Your site is the next best thing to being there!" writes Jan from Arlington, Texas. "I am a transplanted New Englander," said Dorothy. "I live in California...the only season I truly miss is Autumn. The pictures were breathtaking and thoroughly enjoyed! Thank-you."

Rich who was planning a trip to Kennebunk to propose to his girlfriend wrote to find a picturesque place to pop the question. (She did say, "Yes!"). All things said and done, this was a wildly successful campaign that crossed bureau lines and truly represents the power of the Department of Conservation to span the corners of the world.

We made history. Never before had current foliage pictures been available on-line reaching a worldwide audience, and the reporters from the Wall Street Journal and Wired Magazine pointed out that fact. I'll be interested to see next year if other states follow our lead. Until then, the Maine Forest Service Rangers are reporting 100% leaf drop.

