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Bulletin, July 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?



Issue 7

Department of Conservation

July 1996

Commissioner's Column

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Surfing the Net

Dear Fellow Employees,

The biggest challenges facing us this summer, and there are many from which to choose, are our individual safety, the Strategic Plan and the Performance Budget. I encourage you to forward your comments on the Department's mission statement, goals and objectives to either Ship Bright or Will Harris.

I'm sure this process is raising questions with many of you. You might think it is a mirror image to last summer. I remember several employees asked me at the "Coping with Change" meetings, "Is another shoe ready to drop?"

Well, as far as I know, there is no link that I am aware of between Performance Budgeting and the next biennial shortfall. The Legislature enacted performance budgeting into law prior to the projected FY98-99 shortfall. Can I guarantee you that no link will ever be made? Unfortunately, no; but they are different and unrelated processes. We are all, myself included, ready to put PRTF behind us and get on with the work at hand.

The Strategic Plan for the department is an opportunity and a good thing. Successful businesses continually make and revise plans and ours will help us chart a course to follow. This is especially critical because of our reorganization.

As far as the Performance Budget, the intended goal is to empower us, as a state agency, to have more control over the budget process when we approach the Appropriations Committee and the ensuing management of our business.

These two components: the Strategic Plan and the Performance Budget will revolutionize state government as we know it. Only two other states, Texas and North Carolina, implement them and it will be exciting to see Maine take the lead in the Northeast.

In my recent visits to Dodge Point, Fort Knox, Lake St. George, Ft. McCleary and Bigelow, I thought the facilities were being cared for excellently and I heard optimism from fellow employees.

We've even removed a layer of red tape for some of our procedures like the purchasing cards and filling seasonal vacancies. The repairs with some of the special funds are taking shape, and visitor usage and reservations are up in many areas.

I wish all of you the best as you approach the Summer Season. You do a wonderful job representing the State of Maine and we are proud of the tremendous job you do. Much of "Maine, The Way Life Should Be" is delivered by the Conservation Department Employees.

By the way, did you catch Hollywood's Knoll or Curtis on Channel 6's Dawn Patrol? They really gave DOC some great exposure.

Here's to a great season and be safe!

Ron B. Lovaglio ❖

Make your next cyber space visit to the DOC Internet site. Thanks to the work of many DOC employees we are making great strides on our final frontier to bring our customers up to date information. Here's a sampling of customer service success:

Subject: Your Webpages

Author is: rickk@midcoast.com at Internet.

Just a quick note of thanks for your wonderful webpages. I just spent the last hour with my ten year old son who is in the middle of a school project on minerals in Maine. Your pages are great! Colorful, informative, and easy to navigate. He wants to come visit the Information Center!

I know you probably don't get many thank you notes for your services, but you certainly deserve credit for your work on the Web. Keep it up!

Work will continue on Parks and Lands, and Maine Forest Service pages. My thanks to: **Anne Bills, Marc Loiselle, and Bob Tucker** for their hard work and perseverance through this lengthy, arduous but exciting project! ❖

You're Invited to the Second Annual DOC Picnic!

All DOC and A.C.E. Service Center Employees are invited to the **Second Annual Department of Conservation Picnic Friday, July 19**, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Rain or shine we'll meet at the Arboretum which is located across the street from the Harlow Building.

We need:

- ✓ Volunteers to cook
- ✓ A truck to pick up the barbecue grill (four mile commute from Harlow)
- ✓ Salads, desserts, chips, dips and condiments
- ✓ Your favorite party music (CD or tape)
- ✓ Games (sorry, no water balloons or squirt guns)

Please call **Gale at 287-4900** to let her know what you plan to bring. (We don't want 50 deviled egg plates.) We will ask for a small donation to cover the cost of hamburgers and hotdogs. Watch for Gale's e:mail for more information.

Bureau contacts:

Jean Colfer	Maine Forest Service
Carol DiBello	Bureau of Parks and Lands
Gale Ross	Commissioner's Office/General Services
Tom Weddle	NRIMC ❖

JUL 11 1996

PARKS AND LANDS NEWS

Northern Region

-Tim Hall

Happy Trails to You!

Several Northern Region staffers participated in events celebrating National Trails Day on Saturday, June 1. **Stu Wagner**, manager of Cobscook Bay State Park, attended the dedication of the Cutler Coast Trail. **Gordon Bell** hosted trail work activities at Camden Hills State Park, focusing on trail rehabilitation and the establishment of a trail head at the new hiker's parking lot. On hand to learn trail construction techniques and assist Americorps and volunteer crews were Roque Bluffs State Park Manager **Larry Hunter**, and Quoddy Head State Park Manager **John Smith**. ❖

Park in the Park

Work nears completion on a new Park and Ride lot at Camden Hills State Park. The project, a partnership effort between the park, the Department of Transportation, and Coastal Transportation will give commuters and tourists a chance to park outside of crowded downtown Camden and catch shuttle busses to and from shops and work. Shuttle busses will also be available to campers, and a "town to tower" trip may be started to take folks to the top of Mt. Battie as part of the shuttle. As part of the project, a new hiker's parking lot has been constructed at the park, providing better safety and logistical control for visitors and staff. ❖

Now That's Customer Service!

Tim Hall received a letter from the coordinator of a district Envirothon held recently at Peaks-Kenny State Park, thanking the bureau for staff assistance. Praise was passed on for Park Manager **Bill Elliot** for his attention to the event. "In every way, Bill was cooperative and pleasant, and his efforts contributed greatly to the success of the event," wrote the coordinator. We add our thanks too, Bill. ❖

Riverfest 1996

Maine State Park facilities were prominent again during the annual expedition of the Penobscot Riverkeepers 2000. Each year the group travels from the headwaters of the river to Penobscot Bay, carrying a message of tradition and ecology for the watershed to schools, groups and communities. This year the expedition visited the PRC, Fort Knox, Warren Island and Owls Head facilities during the tour. The tour ended on June 8 in Stonington. ❖

Discover Moose Point

For thousands of visitors to Maine each year, Moose Point offers a wonderful chance to stretch one's legs and take in a beautiful ocean view. But for others, the park is a place of discovery. **Ewing Zelz** and **Betsy Bass**, staff members of the Penobscot Marine Museum, have completed a discovery guide entitled "Exploring the Intertidal Zone at Moose Point State Park." The resource book is filled with information and activities for young and old explorers alike. The project, in fact, has already attracted a world-renowned marine biologist. **Richard Lutz**, a professor at Rutgers University and noted deep sea explorer, recently visited the park with **Betsy Bass**. ❖

Supplemental Staff Update

For many seasons, park managers have faced and overcome staff shortages by recruiting labor assistance from volunteers and agencies such as the Department of Labor (Summer Youth Employment), Americorps, the Department of Corrections, and campuses of the University of Maine System. Manager of Aroostook State Park **Frank Appleby**, reports that a team of eight Americorps workers have started trail work at the park as a summer project. Frank has also recruited an intern from the University of Maine at Presque Isle to supervise Nickerson Lake, a day use facility near Houlton. **Phil Farr** has recruited a summer intern, paid through an internship program sponsored by the Holbrook Island Trust. Phil also reports that Holbrook Island will be assisted by a team of Landmark Volunteers and the Upward Bound program this summer. ❖

A project without pier (sic)

Emergency work to replace a lost section of the Warren Island State Park Pier was completed this week. Prock Marine removed and rebuilt a destroyed pier piling, using a crane and barge. Work now focuses on reconstructing a wooden span to replace one washed away during a winter storm. With luck, full access will be restored by July 1. ❖

My Island Home

Speaking of Warren Island, work is progressing with a plan to convert a tool shed on the island to a small staff cabin. Park Manager **Charlene Hood** plans to move to the island for the summer season when the renovation is complete. The plan will provide an on-site ranger, both day and night, for the island campground. But life will be rustic -- the island is without electricity, and water must be hauled from the island's hand pump. ❖

Safety Committee

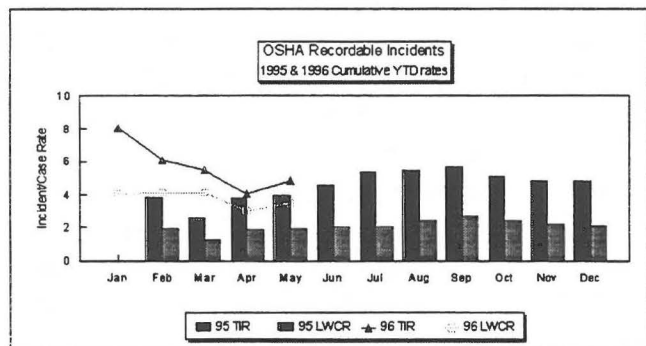
- Deb Phillips

The Safety Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and is hard at work putting together a Department Safety Program. The Bureau Directors have been provided with information relating to an employee training needs assessment which covers the entire department. The committee has requested that Bureau Directors get feedback from bureaus/employees, which will be incorporated into the training portion of the Department Safety Program. While waiting for returning information on the training piece, the committee is working on developing the rest of the framework needed to put together a safety program, such as incident reporting procedures, policy development, resources, etc. The committee has already identified a number of areas that need attention regarding department-wide safety issues. The challenge is to put together a program that is effective in meeting not only existing employee safety needs but also anticipates what's around the corner and respond in a proactive manner.

For more information about employee safety, please call **Deb Phillips at 287-4925**. ❖

Safety Update

-Ellen Blair



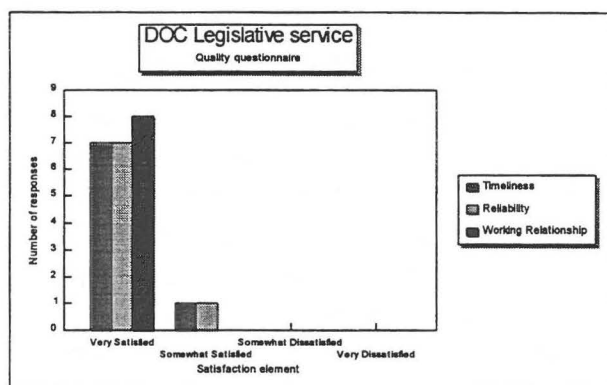
According to May's safety report the Department of Conservation incurred three OSHA reportable injuries this month. Two of these injuries resulted in lost time. The above graph shows us that by comparing incident rates of cumulative year to date figures between 1995 and 1996, DOC has gone from a total incident rate (TIR) of 4.0 in 1995 to one of 4.9 in 1996; a lost workday case rate (LWCR) of 2.0 in 1995 to 3.5 in 1996. ❖

DOC's Legislative Grades Are In !

- Ship Bright

Members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (ACF) Committee were afforded the opportunity to provide the department with their feedback regarding the working relationship with the DOC. None of the Legislators had ever recalled being asked for their opinion as to the quality of the service provided to them by any state agency before.

Of the 13 members on the ACF committee eight responded to the survey. All of those responding felt that the working relationship with the department was very satisfying. All responses were in the satisfactory range which speaks well of the team work here at DOC.



Comments that we received follow:

- "No problems." - Rep. Ed Dexter
- "I appreciate being asked. I enjoy getting the newsletter, too." - Sen. Judy Paradis
- "Ship is very accessible to us. It is appreciated." - Rep. Bob Spear (House chair)
- "Do as good a job communicating with the general public as you do with us and you will be very successful." - Rep. Clyde Hichborn
- "I feel very comfortable about the info I get and the ability to get questions answered." - Rep. Marge Kilkelly (former House chair)
- "Doing a good job." - unsigned

This November the people of Maine will be electing the 118th legislature and our goal will be to maintain the high level of "customer" satisfaction that the ACF committee has come to appreciate, respect, and expect in the past. ❖

Send submissions for August's newsletter by Friday, July 19 to:

Susan Benson

Department of Conservation

22 SHS - Harlow Building

Augusta, ME 04333

#287-4909

cc:Mail: Susan Benson at DOC

susan.benson@state.me.us



PARKS AND LANDS NEWS

Southern Region

-Steve Curtis

Friends of Colonial Pemaquid receive \$100K

The friends of Colonial Pemaquid have received a \$100,000 grant from the Ireland Foundation. The grant is provided to commence renovations to the Fort House at the Colonial Pemaquid Historic Site. The grant further stipulates the contribution of an additional \$50,000 if a similar amount is raised from other donors. This is great news for the Bureau of Parks & Lands and should make a significant contribution towards maintaining one of Maine's most important historic sites. ❖

Celebrating Walter Reid Day

The Bureau and staff at Reid State Park celebrated Walter Reid Day on the first day of summer, June 20. This year marked the 50th anniversary of Georgetown native Walter Reid's gift of 350 acres of land to the State of Maine.

Park Manager **Dan Bell** welcomed everyone and Bureau Director **Tom Morrison** presented a Certificate of Appreciation to members of the Reid family. Special thanks go to **Dan Bell**, **Samantha Tessari**, and **Sheila McDonald** for making this a successful event. ❖

National TV Debut!

Tom Collins, manager at Fort McClary Historic Site, **Alan Weeks**, and **Kevin Bearor** were interviewed by the NBC Today Show. The promo is scheduled to air in July, we hope that Tom will share the specific date of his debut on national television. ❖

CCC Crews

Peacock Beach Park Manager **Gary Stellpflug**, is overseeing a CCC project on Bureau Land in Turner. This parcel, which was purchased with Land For Maine's Future bond issue funds, is located on the Androscoggin River in Turner and Leeds. The CCC crew will spend six weeks on site developing a multiple use trail system. ❖

National Trails Day

On June 1 we celebrated National Trails Day at Mount Blue State Park. Representatives from various user groups which included horseback riders, bicyclists, and ATV riders assembled at the Park to celebrate the first true multiple use trail network in the State Park system.

Special thanks go to **Bruce Farnham** and **Brian Bronson**. ❖

Sebago Lake State Park Vandalized

On June 5, several individuals vandalized a new toilet building and the entrance booth building at Sebago Lake State Park. Quick work by the park staff led by Park Ranger **Steve Garron**, **Dick Jordan**, and **Karol Carlson** allowed state police to apprehend the culprits. **Scott Woodruff**, maintenance mechanic at Sebago, has repaired the building in time to accommodate the summer rush that occurs at Sebago without impact to other users. ❖

Sea Trek Celebration

Popham Beach State Park hosted the Source to the Sea Trek Celebration on June 19. Canoeists started their trip on the headwaters of the Androscoggin River and finished the trip at Popham Beach. The event included entertainment, a cookout, awards, and games. Special thanks go out to Park Manager **Ben Kreiton** and the staff of Popham Beach State Park. ❖

Andrea Ritz Memorial Fund

George Ritz who works out of the Old Town office in the Bureau of Parks and Lands recently returned from Washington D.C. where he met with the Paraguayan Ambassador to discuss his progress on the Andrea Ritz Memorial Hospital.

You see, tragedy struck in May of 1995 when George's 12-year-old daughter **Andrea**, died unexpectedly from an attack of sudden-onset diabetes. To work through their grief, the family is raising money to build a hospital back in Paraguay where **Andrea** spent the first four years of her life and **George** worked as the director of forestry for the Peace Corps.

Currently, they are half way to their goal of \$30,000. **George** wants to raise the remaining \$15,000 by the end of August to commence construction.

"I'd like to express my gratitude to all of the Department of Conservation employees who have already contributed," commented **George**.

If you would like to make a donations of any amount, please send it to:

The Andrea Ritz Hospital Fund/

Friends of Paraguay

Box 274, Bradford, ME 04410

(The Friends of Paraguay is a non-profit group, 501 (c) 3, and your contribution is tax-deductible)

If you have any questions, call **George** at the Old Town Office, #827-5936 or at home, #327-1187. ❖