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## Bulletin, June 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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# What's Up, DOC?



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Issue 6

Department of Conservation

June 1996

## Commissioner's Column

I was prepared to talk about safety, performance budgets and strategic plans but I want to set that aside and share a great day with you. On June 1 the Governor, Tom Morrison and myself received the deed to Dodge Point at a ceremony at the Point. It was a beautiful, warm, early summer Maine day. We boated three miles from the Damariscotta DOC boat landing to Dodge Point. Along the way we saw seals sunning themselves on rocks, two ospreys on a floating nest, aquaculture oyster trays and nesting terns.

At Dodge Point, after a wonderful ceremony we hiked the trails and began to take in the latest acquisition for DOC stewardship responsibility. It is an outstanding Land for Maine's Future acquisition and partnership with the Damariscotta River Association. I couldn't help but think, that as we grapple with the business and financial issues each day, how easy it is to lose sight of the really good things we do at the Department of Conservation.

We are stewards of Maine's finest, most dramatic and inspiring lands. They are well kept for Maine citizens and visitors by you. Every time I go to our parks, lands and forests I am proud of our stewardship and professionalism. We do good work--and it shows.

Ron Lovaglio ❖

Look for DOC's Legislative Survey results in the July's issue of "What's Up, DOC?"

Editor's Note: My apologies for the tardiness of this issue. July's newsletter will be back on schedule.

**Send submissions for July's newsletter by Friday, June 21 to:**

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## The Strategic Plan and Performance Budgeting

As communicated via the May 13 message sent out to all DOC E:mail users, the 117th Legislature passed LD 1790 to implement performance budgeting in state government. Performance Budgeting is a new way of approaching the budgeting process by developing a Strategic Plan that will map out priorities using measurable objectives. This process will allow us to measure our progress toward the goals and outcomes that we have set for ourselves, and will be used as the blue print to guide departments, bureaus and programs. Strategic Planning and Performance Budgeting is being undertaken by all departments and branches of state government including the legislative and judicial branches.

The Strategic Plan contains a mission statement followed by goals, objectives, strategies and action steps. The draft is on Page 4 of the newsletter; please note, this is a "**Work in Progress**" which is why you will see percentages left blank, i.e. x%.

**Department of Conservation employees are welcome and encouraged to forward their comments on the Draft Plan to Ship Bright or Will Harris by Monday, July 15. See the Draft on Page 4 of this newsletter.**

Stakeholders, constituents, and other state department representatives will play an integral role as advisors to DOC's Strategic Plan. The first meeting is June 19, and the list of invitees include a representative from the following groups: Large Landowners-Industrial and Non Industrial, Small Woodlot Owner, IF&W, a Conservation Group, Tourism Industry, Maine Fire Chiefs Association, SAM, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Snowmobile Association, and a Friends Group.

Our upcoming deadlines include:

**June 19:** Stakeholder's meeting

**July 15:** Deadline for submission of strategies to Will and Ship.

**August 1:** The initial draft of DOC's mission statement, goals, and objectives is due to the Administration.

**September 1:** The performance budget is due on the pilot program.

**September - January:** Work continues on the strategic plan and budget.

**February 1, 1997:** The final version of the DOC Strategic Plan is due to the Legislature. ❖

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## PARKS AND LANDS NEWS

-Tim Hall

### May's Management Meeting

Park Managers, maintenance mechanics and regional staff met for the May Management Team meeting. The 24 attendees represented 414 seasons of park operations experience (from a poll), for an average in park experience at 17.25 years. The most experienced? **Tim Caverly** with 30 seasons. Another interesting fact from the poll showed that 62.5% of Northern Region areas were, on that date, infested with black flies. Coastal areas were the least affected.

### Partnerships and Progress

The Waldo Vocational Educational Center in Belfast has constructed replacement floats for **Colonial Pemaquid State Historic Site**, with sponsorship for materials coming from the Loon Fund. **Jarvis Johnson**, maintenance mechanic for the Camden Hills Cluster, developed the project, procured materials, and delivered the finished floats to Bristol.

For many seasons, park managers have been supplementing park staff with the assistance of many programs.

**Leland Griffin** has arranged for help from the **Waldo County SYEP** (Summer Youth Employment Program) and the Senior Spectrum, an organization providing work opportunities for seniors. **ASPIRE**, a "workfare" program of the Department of Human Services, is providing assistance at several areas;

**Frank Appleby** is utilizing assistance from **ACAP** (Aroostook County Action Program), and is close to securing an intern from the University of Maine at Presque Isle;

**Scott Thompson** is recruiting volunteers and **TDC** (Training and Development Corporation) workers for **Lamoine State Park**; and

**Tim Caverly** utilizes the services of a **UMFK** student in the Allagash, working under the sponsorship of the John Martin Scholarship.

### Grant Requests

**Ted Bradstreet** is working on grant requests for two northern region parks, **Quoddy Head** and **Roque Bluffs**, for trail projects in 1997. At present, we are working with managers to possibly combine the projects for the two Washington County areas.

### Envirowho?

**Peaks-Kenny State Park** was the site of the 1996 Regional Environthon on May 17th. The event drew students from 12 schools to compete at stations ranging from soil study to land use.

### And a Road Race...

Preparations continue for a special race up the Mt. Battie Road at **Camden Hills State Park**.

Forty vintage roadsters from New England Tour 1000 toured the park on May 22 for the event. In case you're wondering, the roadsters raced the clock up the hill, not each other.

### Computer Progress

**Jim Rea** traveled to the Northern Region to assist with the redevelopment of regional computer databases. Park regions are moving accounting and personnel databases from the Rbase environment to Access. Great progress has been made.

### For 40 Days and Nights...?

Water has receded along the West Branch of the Penobscot River following a surging spring run-off. According to **Matt LaRoche**, PRC Manager, flooding resulted in the "rearrangement" of picnic tables, campsites, toilet buildings and a footbridge. Matt and his crew have quickly moved in to survey and straighten Mother Nature's handiwork.

### A Pierless State Park

Work continues on the replacement of the Warren Island State Park Pier, which was shortened considerably by a winter storm. Financial assistance has been offered by the Boating Division, Risk Management, and FEMA, and efforts are now concentrating on hiring a contractor to make repairs as soon as possible. The park opened on Memorial Day, but access may be more difficult than usual for a while until the repairs are made. Thanks go to **John Picher**, **Mike Leighton** and many others for their efforts and help. ❖

## MAINE FOREST SERVICE NEWS

- Jim Downie

### Wildland Arson Reward Committee

Nearly two years ago, the Maine Forest Service began the **Maine Wildland Arson Program**, offering the public a toll-free telephone number to report wildland arson information. That number is: 1-800-987-0257.

Wildland arson is the second leading cause of forest fires in Maine, second only to escaped debris burning; one in every four fires is caused by arsonists. Since the program began, a missing component that would encourage and promote the public's cooperation was a reward system.

As a result the Wildland Arson Reward Committee was formed and held its first meeting on May 16. The members include representatives from the Maine Federation of Fire Fighters, Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine, Maine Fire Chiefs Association, State Landownerships, Federal Landownerships, Large Industrial Landownerships. **Jim Downie** and **Brenda Lord** represent MFS. *(continued on next page)*

According to State Fire Control Supervisor **Tom Parent**, all funding for this program will come from private donations; the Maine Federation of Fire Fighters has agreed to handle all funds. MFS representatives will provide the membership information regarding wildland arson cases. In turn, they will review all arson cases to determine if a reward is appropriate.

**Jim Downie** will produce a 30 second Public Service Announcement for television and radio to promote the reward component of the program. These will begin airing mid-summer. ❖

Assistant District Ranger **Bill Williams** of Marsardis attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. Bill was selected to represent the Maine Forest Service and Maine Criminal Justice Academy and will be presenting the course later this year to MCJA personnel for possible inclusion into their criminal justice academy curriculum. The course ran from May 14-16. ❖

### **Congratulations to Eric Hoar** - Tim Caverly

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Assistant Ranger **Leigh (Eric) Hoar III** has received three awards from the University of Maine at Orono.

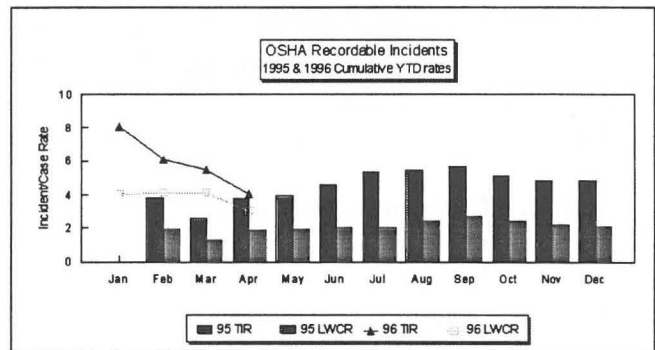
Award Number One: The **Durham Scholarship**. This monetary award is offered annually to a qualifying child of a Department of Conservation employee. This is the third year that Eric has won this scholarship which is evaluated by the Forestry Department at Orono and is awarded based on competing essays that discuss why the study of Forestry issues is important.

Award Number Two: "**Game of Logging**"- a collegiate hands-on competition. Eric competed against other students that were in the Certified Logging Training Course and will compete in the National Championship to be held in Nelsonville, Ohio, later this summer.

Award Number Three: **Distinguished Student Leadership Award** from the student chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Eric was recognized for his leadership abilities and skills in organizing in local events.

Eric has been an assistant ranger in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway since 1991. Although he has been assigned work details all over the Allagash, Eric's primary patrol area has been in Round Pond T13R12. Waterway Supervisor **Tim Caverly** and the **entire Waterway staff** express great pride with the recognition that Eric has received. His expertise and skills are excellent examples of the work ethic that Allagash Wilderness Waterway employees display. ❖

## **Safety Update** -Ellen Blair



According to April's safety report which is compiled by **Ellen Blair** of the **A.C.E. Service Center**, the Department of Conservation did not incur any OSHA reportable injuries this month! 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 4.1 in 1996; a lost workday case rate (LWCR) of 2.0 in 1995 to 3.1 in 1996. April's injury free record has allowed our cumulative rates to continue to decline!

## **Safety Committee** - Deb Phillips

The Safety Committee continues to move forward in identifying what training needs presently exist in individual bureaus and what can be offered across bureau-lines now or in the near future. The group is also in the process of identifying what training needs exist that are not presently being provided. The Team will develop flow charts and fish-bone charts, both methods used to determine process and measurement, initially centered around training, but from which our entire safety program can be built around.

As part of the team's long-range plan, as mentioned before, other areas of safety will be determined and built on so that a comprehensive, department-wide program can be developed and utilized. To this end, we are presently in the process of gathering information from other agencies and companies on their safety programs.

We are quickly discovering there are myriad components involved in a safety program. If we are to develop a successful department program, all aspects of this subject need to be explored and considered as we build on a plan that is meaningful and successful to both employees and addresses operational needs.

If you have any questions or have suggestions to offer to the committee on training initiatives or other areas of employee safety, please call **Deb Phillips** at 287-4925. ❖



**The DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**First Draft 6/10/96 - Work in Progress**

**MISSION:** The Mission of the Department of Conservation is to benefit the citizens, landowners, and users of the State's natural resources by promoting and performing stewardship and ensuring responsible, balanced use of Maine's land, forest, water, and mineral resources.

**GOAL 1:** **Ensure a healthy and sustainable forest on private and state lands.**

**Objective 1.1:** By the year 2000, 80% of acreage harvested will be in compliance with principles of forest sustainability.

**Objective 1.2:** Increase by x% by the year 2000 the number of trees in the Maine forest that are deemed healthy.

**Objective 1.3:** Maintain at 1996 levels all of Maine's forest ecosystems in sufficient acreage to ensure sustainability of underrepresented/representative natural communities.

**GOAL 2:** **Improve the outdoor recreational and educational opportunities at state parks, historic sites, and on Maine's lands and waters.**

**Objective 2.1:** Increase user satisfaction of state parks, historic sites and public lands by x% in two years.

**Objective 2.2:** Increase the opportunity for public use of public and private lands 10% by the year 2000.

**Objective 2.3:** Increase support to the General Fund from the operation of state parks and historic sites by x%, by the year 2000, while maintaining or increasing current services.

**GOAL 3:** **Ensure that decisions that affect Maine's natural resources are made with the highest quality information.**

**Objective 3.1:** By the year 2000, the State's determination of the status of forest sustainability will be based on reliable and valid data.

**Objective 3.2:** Increase natural resource information user satisfaction by x% per year.

**Objective 3.3:** Decrease the gaps in natural resource data by 5% per year.



**GOAL 4:** **Protect Maine's unique natural character and foster appropriate economic growth.**

**Objective 4.1:** By the year 2001, 80% of new development within LURC jurisdiction will occur in areas identified as most appropriate for development.

**Objective 4.2:** Increase the timeliness and predictability of the LURC permitting process by x% by the year 1999.

**Objective 4.3:** By the year 2000, 80% of new development activities and forest practices within the LURC jurisdiction will be in compliance with LURC standards.

**GOAL 5:** **Ensure that the department is operated in a manner that maximizes efficiency, productivity, and employee safety in accomplishing its statutory responsibilities.**

**Objective 5.1:** By the end of the 1998/99 biennium, all of the employees will have access to and training in the department's computer system.

**Objective 5.2:** By the end of the 1998/99 biennium, employee's work-related injuries will have decreased by 50% from the current annual average.

**Objective 5.3:** By the biennium 2000/2001, all department programs will be integrated and budgeted based on its strategic plan.

**GOAL 6:** **Ensure high level of public safety to minimize risks to people who live, work, and recreate in Maine.**

**Objective 6.1:** No loss of life in forested and adjacent settings.

**Objective 6.2:** Protection of and maximize options for responsible use of Maine's land, forest, water, and mineral resources.