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Bulletin, May 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?



Issue 5

Department of Conservation

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May 1996

Commissioner's Column

Many of the events you read about in your daily newspaper tie directly with our activities at DOC. I'd like to comment on a few of the past month's highlights:

The Governor unveiled his environmental agenda at the **ECO/ECO Policy Forum** on Monday, April 8 at Maine Audubon's brand new facility in Falmouth. Formed six years ago, the group's goal is to provide an open forum for the exchange of views on the relationship of **ECONomics** and **ECOLogy** in Maine's future, hence **ECO/ECO**. He proposed new environmental goals including:

- ✓ meeting federal standards for ozone pollution by 1999;
- ✓ requiring more lakes and ponds to meet state and federal pollution standards by 2005;
- ✓ reducing by 10 percent the number of clam flats closed because of pollution by 2000; and
- ✓ working with Maine businesses to reduce their discharges of toxic materials by 30 percent by 1998 and 50 percent by 2000.

Prior to his address, Governor King recognized LURC's **Cindy Bertocci** for her work on the Maine Environmental Priorities Project while she was a project manager at DEP. Among Cindy's accomplishments was the coordination and facilitation of the work of 60 volunteers and numerous researchers and technical writers, which culminated in the publication of a 500 page report characterizing environmental problems in Maine. She provided the primary staff support to the 38 member Steering Committee which asked the Governor to recognize Cindy for her diligence, persistence, hard work, and dedication.

The **Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management** hosted a panel discussion and "listening sessions" on April 22 which were open to the public. About 200 people attended and gave both verbal and written comments on the draft that was proposed. The Council's mission is to develop practical, credible benchmarks of sustainability against which forest landowners can assess their forest management practices. In light of the

upcoming referendum vote, the council's work is receiving a higher level of attention. I'm sure many of you know that the Governor is exploring options for responding to the referendum. He has challenged stakeholders to develop an alternative proposal that can enjoy widespread support. He will use the work of the Council to judge alternatives.

I want to thank **Don Mansius** for an extraordinary job of keeping the council's work product, notes, revisions and meetings organized. With Don's guidance, organization and attention to detail, the draft was made public in record time and the sessions empowered Maine citizens to participate in the process. **Tom Doak** also played a key role prior to his promotion to Agriculture.

In closing, **Ellen Blair** has released the injury numbers for April and as of today, we are holding at zero for April! I want to compliment you on sharpening your focus on safety. The trend looks good and if everyone makes a personal commitment for their work to be accident-free in May, the DOC will be well on its way to a safer workplace.

Ron Lovaglio

P.S. I think spring has finally made it. Between our parks, lands, and forests, we're going to have an action-packed summer! ❖

Why is the Newsletter Mailed Separately From Our Paychecks?

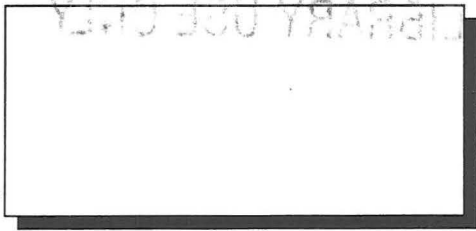
Good question.

The reason is because of a change in the paycheck process. As of April 5, 1996, payroll checks are being delivered to the A.C.E. Service Center from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in sealed envelopes. As a result, we can no longer stuff the newsletter in with the paychecks.

We feel that the newsletter is an important vehicle for employee communications and accordingly, we will mail the newsletter directly to your home along with employment-related information. ❖

MAY 02 1996

What's missing?



caption could read:
DOC Employees Enjoying Our Maine Summer

What's missing, you ask?
Your local information, that's what!

Let's hear what's going on in the field, the woods, at the parks, historic sites.....send me updates on the happenings in your corner of our DOC world. Promotions, births, marriages, special programs, events, you name it...send me your information and I'll put it in the newsletter! **Next newsletter deadline is: Friday, May 24.**

Susan ❖

Legislative Update

-Ship Bright

At a little past 4:30am on April 4 the 117th legislature adjourned. Everyone was exhausted as the work schedule over the last two and a half weeks had been a series of long nights and weekend work. The DOC bond bill was whittled down to \$3MM which will go out to the voters this November. Our original bill had been for \$5.5MM. The Appropriations committee stripped off \$2.5MM that would have gone to Lands for Maine's Future and public access to Maine waters (freshwater access). What is left is now: \$1MM for Fort Knox, \$1.4MM for the replacement of Churchill Dam, and \$600K for Access for people with disabilities.

Another bill we were tracking closely which would increase the reimbursement rates for municipalities for forest fire suppression costs was passed by both chambers BUT it died on the Appropriations table. Its price tag of \$222,000 was too much for the Appropriations committee to fund with the few dollars that were available to fund other bills that also had a price tag.

I want to thank **Jim Blanck** and **Gloria Allen** for pitching in and helping cover the Legislature when I got too punchy with the hours I was keeping. Maintaining an effective and respected legislative presence is a team approach--thanks to **Herb Hartman, Tom Morrison, Steve Oliveri, Sheila McDonald, Dave Mercier, Will Harris, Karen Michaud, Jim Blanck, Gloria Allen, Chuck Gadzik, Gale Ross, Don Mansius, John Williams, Ralph Knoll, Bob Marvinney, Jean**

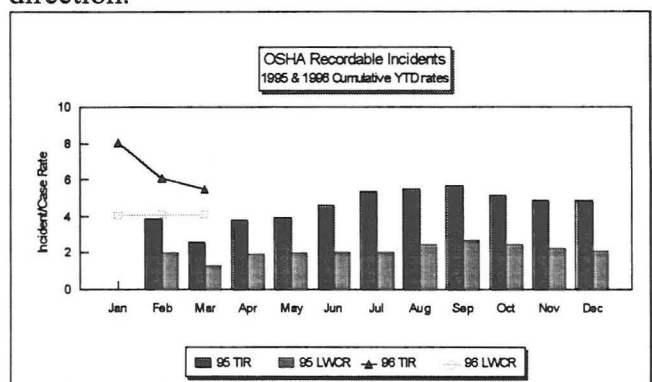
Colfer, Judy Andrews, Ron, and a host of others!

I will be releasing the "grades" that the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry committee have given us for the 117th Legislature in June's newsletter. Thanks to you all! ❖

Safety Pays, Safety Saves

-Deb Phillips and Ellen Blair

The Safety Committee, recently formed as part of the Department's focus on reducing workplace injury through a safer work environment, has met two times to date (the 4/10 storm prevented one meeting due to safety considerations). The issue of employee safety is far-reaching and has many components. Rather than focus on all issues at one time, the team has been working on items that are currently in place in one form or another and can be readily used and applied to all Department employees. Employee safety training is one area which can be developed and incorporated into something that can be shared and used by all employees. The committee is presently looking at what types of training currently exist, what can be offered to all department employees, and what areas need to be developed. As the group progresses in this direction, you will be informed and provided with additional information. The ultimate goal of the committee is to reduce the number of recordable injuries and lost time by 50% in three years. A firm foundation towards that goal is to provide employees with the knowledge and tools they need to avoid preventable injuries. Training is but a step in that direction.



According to March's safety report which is compiled by **Ellen Blair**, the Department of Conservation incurred one OSHA reportable injury this month. This injury 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 2.4 in 1995 to one of 5.5 in 1996; a lost workday case rate (LWCR) of 1.8 in 1995 to 4.1 in 1996. For March our incidents of work-related injuries

increased; however, in April there were no reported work-related injuries...great number!

The Total Incident Rate & Lost Workday Case Rate (LWCR) are incident rates that represents the number of total incidents and lost workday case incidences for a standard number of full-time employees. These rates allows year-to-year and industry-to-industry comparisons of injury and illness data even when the employment and hour worked are different. This incident rates includes an adjustment factor of 200,000 hours which represents 100 employees working full time for one year. This is considered the base for all incident rates used by the Department of Labor.

To calculate the incident rate take:

- ✓ The # of cases with lost work days
- ✓ Multiplied by 200,000 (as described above)
- ✓ Divided by exposure hours (total # of hours worked by employees)*

*DOC used "paid" hours vs. actual hours worked ❖

In the news...

Tim Hall helped members of the Chickawaukie Ice Boat club by providing access to Damariscotta Lake near Jefferson State Park. "Our club and I would like to thank Mr. Hall for going out of his way to help us," wrote Club Commodore Donald J. Coe. "We had a great regatta on Saturday, our last sailing of the year, and have Mr. Hall to thank for helping to make it so."

Maine Forest Service Natural Resources Educator **Mary Ann McGarry** received high marks from the students and teachers who participated in her ITV program, "Rainforest, Maine Forest, Are They Different?" According to Charles Haskell and Elizabeth McKnight of the New Century Conservation Trust..."One student from Milo told Bangor's Channel 5 reporter that the program was the 'next best thing to being there.' "

Maine Forest Rangers **Joel Davis** and **Steve Harding** answered the call when blustery, spring winds fueled fires in southern and central Maine. As a result of their quick response, WGME-TV, NewsChannel 13 interviewed Joel while Steve coordinated the live shot from the fire tower in Gray. The report aired that night in the 5:30pm and 6pm newscasts.

Maine State Geologists **Steve Dickson** and **Joe Kelley** rushed to Rockland on Wednesday, April 17 on the request of town officials. Driving spring rains saturated the earth creating a landslide that affected three homes, sending one into the ocean. The homes, literally teetering on the edge of the rocky cliff, were not accessible to the residents who had to watch and wait out the storm. Thanks to a call from Steve, Susan

Benson was able to alert the folks here, as well as Dennis Bailey in the Governor's office. Great team work! ❖

College Conservation Corps

- Kim Lynch

The College Conservation Corps of Maine recently completed two projects on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The seven member Corps team assisted Allagash Park Ranger **Kim Lynch**, Game Warden Jim Medeiros and Game Warden Sergeant David Allen in making repairs to the Round Pond Warden Camp in T13R12. The interior of the camp was cleaned out and new floors, bunks and cabinets installed. A combination woodshed/toolshed was constructed using round timbers found locally. This camp, owned by the Warden Service, has been used by Allagash Waterway staff during the summer season for approximately ten years. The crew also spent some time helping to prepare the trail for the 250 mile Can-Am Dog Sled race. The crew stayed at the Public Lands camp on Henderson Brook during the project.

Thank you, **Del Ramey**!

The second project had the Corps on Eagle Lake cutting trails, hauling rubbish, and tearing down and burning an old unused building. Although it rained every day that the crew worked on the lake, they worked through the storms and were able to complete the project.

A GREAT BIG THANKS to Corpsmembers: Steve Clarrage, Duane Tidwell, Jim Dillaire, Dale Linscott, Kristen Soucie, Josh McCollom and Team Leader Tom Bradbury. ❖

Movers and Shakers

Christopher Beyer joined the Bureau of Parks and Lands Northern Region as a Forest Technician. Chris started on March 25 and came from the U.S. Forest Service in Gray, ME where he worked on the Statewide Forest Inventory of Maine.

Lillian Hanning left DOC for a Purchasing Clerk position at the Department of Human Services. Lil had been with DOC for 10 years, working in LURC, Parks and General Services. We all wish Lil the best!

Replacing Lil is **Denise M. Pomerleau**. Denise came from the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services where she was a Clerk Typist II. Denise and her husband are expecting their first baby this July.

Please welcome Chris and Denise to the DOC. ❖



ASHLAND FACILITY's mailing information:

**(BUREAU NAME)
RR1, BOX 16DC
ASHLAND, ME 04732-9722**

**Maine Forest Service 435-7963
Fire Control 435-7964
Management 435-7970
ID & M 435-7970**

**Parks and Lands 435-7966
Boating Facility 435-7996**

LURC 435-7968

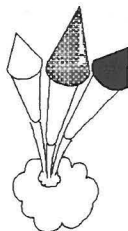
**FAX LINE 435-7184
Serves the facility**

**Maine Forest Service
East Branch District Headquarters
RR1, Box 35
Island Falls, ME 04747
Phone: 463-2331
Fax: 463-2924**

**MFS update-
Norridgewock's fax number is: 474-3499**

**LURC
Millinocket Office
240 Katahdin Avenue, Suite #4
Millinocket, ME 04462
Phone: 723-4541
Fax: 723-4519**

**LURC
Jonesboro Office
Route 1A, P.O. Box 130
Jonesboro, ME 04648
Phone: 434-2628
Fax: 434-2624**



Anniversaries

25 Years

Steve Day April 5, 1971

20 Years

Michael A. Wilusz	May 10, 1976
Michael Leighton	May 23, 1976
Matthew E. LaRoche	May 24, 1976
Thomas Parent	May 24, 1976
Lawrence M. Hunter	May 30, 1976

15 Years

David S. Chaney May 24, 1981

Calendar of Events

May 6 & 7

Parks and Lands Spring Meeting in Bangor

May 15

Open House at LURC's new Millinocket office

May 15

Internet Team meeting - 9:00 a.m.
Harlow Building, first floor conference room

May 17

Steve Curtis of Parks and Lands to appear on
Dawn Patrol, WCSH-TV Channel 6, 5:00 a.m.

May 20-24

Arbor Week

Theme: "Protecting The Forest Is Everyone's Job"
The posters created by elementary students are on
display at the State Capitol Building all week.

Send submissions for June's newsletter
by Friday, May 17 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