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Bulletin, April 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?

Issue 4

Department of Conservation

April 1996

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Commissioner's Column

I know we're all looking forward to spring, both personally and professionally--will it ever get here? We will have full staffing up to the levels we're allowed and I do not expect to hold positions vacant for budget reasons. Sometimes a position may be vacant, but it will be for other reasons.

*Many employees have asked for information about the **Green Party's referendum**. To address these concerns the Maine Forest Service will be issuing an informational paper to all DOC employees around the first or second week of April.*

*I attended the recent graduation of Maine Forest Service rangers from the Justice Academy and was thrilled to learn that **David Doxey** was named **Class Valedictorian**. The quality and training of new employees entering the department is a point of pride for all of us. Congratulations to **David Doxey, Robert Gross, Chad Abbott and Stephen Wiperman** for successfully completing the 10-week course. Please read **Jim Downie's** article for more information.*

*Finally, I'm looking forward to a great park season and the start of a year of full staffing and park rebuilding using **Loon Funds**.*

Ron Lovaglio

Procurement Card Update

- Barbara Kimball

Acceptance and use of the credit cards is on the increase. The first billing cycle with the new cards was in December. There were eight transactions for a total of \$847.26. The next billing cycle contained 33 transactions for a total of \$2,350.32. The last billing cycle contained 107 transactions for a total of \$9,524.14.

Approximately 90 Procurement Cards are in use at this time. The Bureaus involved are: LURC, Natural Resource Information and Mapping Center, Lands portion of Parks and Lands, Maine Forest Service, and General Services. Although Parks has not joined us yet due to the reorganization, the Snowmobile Division has.

Reports are generated and distributed on a monthly basis to Program Managers to keep them abreast of what the impact will be on their quarterly budgets, and to review the types of transactions being made.

Card transactions cover purchases under \$1,000 and do not include travel, lodging or meal expenses. DOC and DAFS are the two state agencies piloting this program and, if successful, the credit cards will be offered to all state employees. If you are interested in learning more about the card, please talk to your supervisor. ❖

Operation Liftoff

- Jim Downie

On February 23 at the Maine Forest Service Headquarters in Old Town, nine-year old Jon Cuthbertson, of Topsham became the State's First Honorary Forest Ranger as part of a cooperative effort with OPERATION LIFTOFF OF MAINE. Jon, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, was presented with an official Forest Ranger T-shirt, hat, badge and framed certificate. Smokey Bear also gave Jon an authentic Smokey Bear Puppet. Jon is the first of many seriously ill Maine children who will become honorary rangers.

"This program will strengthen our fire prevention efforts, as well as, improve public image of the Maine Forest Rangers. More importantly, it will provide rangers with an opportunity to lift the spirits of many ill children who likely will not have an opportunity to reach adulthood," said Tom Parent, Fire Control Supervisor. ❖

Maine Mineral Symposium Returns to Augusta

- Woody Thompson

The 7th Annual Maine Mineral Symposium will be held in Augusta May 5-7 at the Senator Inn. This educational event is organized by Woody and mineral hobbyists from around the state. Over 200 "rockhounds" from throughout the Northeast are expected to attend. Thousands of these rockhounds visit Maine every year to search for gems and minerals or pan for gold, and they contribute significantly to our tourist economy. During Symposium weekend, the Saturday program at the Senator Inn will feature talks on Maine gems, minerals, and fossils, including recent discoveries. There will also be some outstanding exhibits of these materials. One or more field trips to Maine mines will be held on Sunday, so you can collect your own specimens. For details, contact Woody at #287-7178. ❖

Meet Jefferson Award Winner, Pat Bailey

This March, Pat Bailey, Interpretive Specialist for the Bureau of Parks and Lands, received the prestigious Jefferson Award which recognizes individuals for their excellence and leadership in public service. Pat's nomination was submitted by students and teachers from Libby Tozier Elementary School in Litchfield where Pat volunteers. Maine's list of Jefferson Award winners will be forwarded to Washington D.C. where state recipients compete for national recognition. During March and April, WCSH-TV, Channel 6 in Portland will air the public service announcements highlighting each recipient's work.

Pat was motivated to act after reading an article reporting a high drop out rate coupled with poor quality of education at her local school. "I knew they were great kids and the teachers really cared," stated Pat, speaking from her first hand experience at the Litchfield schools as an Artist in Residence. Feeling the article completely missed its intended target, Pat took matters into her own hands and decided to make an unprecedented commitment.

"I approached the principal and proposed adopting the current first-grade class and seeing them through to graduation!" The principal was quite surprised that an individual would make such a long-term commitment. (Personally, I don't think that that principal ever met someone like Pat Bailey.)

On the first day, Pat made an announcement to her class. "I set the expectation that every one of those kids will graduate from high school and I'll be there to see it happen." For five years Pat has kept her word.

When the class was in first grade, Pat taught lessons through story telling, music lessons and arts and crafts. "There wasn't a lot of money so when I went to school to do something special with my class, I ended up doing an assembly for the entire school!" When Pat debuted Henrietta the Hen, Henrietta was greeted by 120 cooing elementary children. "I think that was the biggest reception any hen has ever had!" said Pat. When the children went to a new school for third grade, Pat did, too! On their first day at Libby Tozier School, she met the students on the playground. "I was there waiting for them as they got off the bus. We all marched into our new classrooms together, and I told their teachers what great kids they were and what wonderful attitudes they had."

In addition to music, art and crafts and story telling, Pat creates unique programs to convey some rather heavy concepts for elementary kids. To teach these rural Maine students about other cultures in support of their work in reading and social studies, Pat split the class into two groups,

sending each group to its own island. She proceeded to coach them on their idiosyncratic customs: The first group could not make eye contact and had to wait patiently for a bow from a stranger before engaging in verbal contact while the second group needed to shake hands to establish verbal contact.

"Why won't he talk to me, Mrs. Bailey?" a student asked me."

Pat commented. "I was amazed at how well they got into their roles, understood the importance of cultural differences, and

"I set the expectation that every one of those kids will graduate from high school and I'll be there to see it happen."

managed to communicate while respecting those differences." At the end, students realized how easy it was to misunderstand a person from another culture based on customs and first impressions.

And what have the children taught Pat Bailey?

"They're teaching me to do a better job of listening, loving, giving, and receiving, and they're giving me the chance to experience the wonder of growth." she replied. And in return, Pat wants them to believe they can do anything.

Pat, I commend you, not only for this award, but for the fact that after the public service announcements stop airing and after this newsletter article is replaced by next month's, you'll still be there ... for forty-five future leaders. Congratulations! ❖

Legislative Update

- Ship Bright

Legislative leadership has talked about trying to adjourn--"Sine Die"--(which roughly translates to, "adjourning to a date uncertain") by the end of Friday, March 29, to be exact. Based on past history that was seen to be an overly ambitious date, but legislative leadership was serious and they put on the pressure to the committees to get the work done. As of March 21, over 80% of all bills had been reported out by the Committees with the bulk of unreported bills being in Appropriations, Education, and Human Resources.

On Monday the 18, LD 1819*, commonly referred to as the Green Party's clearcut ban bill, was heard by the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (ACF) committee. This Green Party-initiated bill gets heard first by the Legislature. If they do not pass it, it goes to referendum this November. This hearing generated a lot of media coverage. (LD stands for Legislative Document and how we refer to proposed laws until they get passed or die.)

We also had a \$5.5 million dollar bond package for park improvements and conservation lands that went before the legislature for approval to be placed on November's ballot. This bond bill would give the Department a much needed capital infusion to do things like repair Churchill Dam on the Allagash, provide funds for public access, provide for access improvements for people with disabilities, help repair the roof on Fort Knox, and provide funds for the Land for Maine's Future.

The Legislature went to evening sessions which meant late nights for some of us. As a result of the pressure to go Sine Die by the 29th, the rules had also been suspended for public hearing notices. Usually a hearing on a bill has to be posted for two weeks before a hearing, but it was down to one week. I expected to see a few "unadvertised" bill hearings (this is the time to be especially vigilant for "sneaker" bills.)

At the time of writing this article, we are entering the final push for the last session of the 117th Legislature and I will report back to you all the final disposition of how things went. I have just sent out a survey to the ACF committee to see how we are doing and I'll report the feedback, both good and bad, when I get the surveys back.

❖

Alert the Media!

- Susan Benson

The Press Release Committee and I will be meeting mid-April to develop a 6-month plan for all bureaus within DOC. If you foresee a program or event that will require promotion in the form of a press release, Governor's proclamation, media advisory, etc... please forward that information to your bureau's representative. They are: **Jim Blanck, Jim Downie, Will Harris, Herb Hartman, Dave Mercier, Mary Ann McGarry, and Thomas Weddle.** Obviously, there will be last minute events which cannot be predicted; however, a schedule of major "happenings" needs to be produced in order to ensure enough time for promotion.

We've got a lot of great stories, programs and messages at the Department of Conservation to communicate to the public. To ensure the most efficient and timely way to get this information out to the public and the media, the system needs to be as user-friendly as possible. Regarding press releases, first run the idea by your bureau director and then submit a draft to your bureau contact. This person can help you get the most important information to the top of the release. If your contact is not available, please feel free to call me for help. I can distribute press releases via fax if the release doesn't contain a map. Maps should be mailed because most of the detail is lost by the time it has been faxed.

If anyone is interested, I can forward a copy of the press release briefing which covers the general ground rules for releases. As time goes on we can improve this model if necessary.

On the same subject, I'm working with **Tom Driscoll** to get the Maine media list, address labels and fax numbers out on the network. I will send out an e:mail once this is complete. If anyone is interested in further information about these subjects, please call me at 287-4909 or send an e:mail. Bear in mind these plans are in their development stage and any constructive suggestions are always welcomed. ❖

Law Enforcement School

-Jim Downie

On Friday, March 22, four Maine Forest Service rangers graduated from the second cooperative Law Enforcement School at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Waterville. **David Doxey, Chad Abbott, Robert Gross, and Stephen Wiperman** completed the ten-week course that trains graduates on carrying out law enforcement responsibilities. **David Doxey** achieved the highest academic score and delivered the Valedictorian speech. **Robert Gross** received the physical proficiency award as most improved officer during the 10 weeks. Maine Forest Service instructors were: **Jay Bernard, Harry Doughty, Jim Downie, Bill Hamilton, Lance Martin, Andrew Mendes, Bruce Small, and Kenny Wing.** A total of seventeen students graduated from the class; others were from Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Fire Marshall's Office and the Penobscot Warden Service. ❖

Glacial Geologists meet Downeast

-Woody Thompson

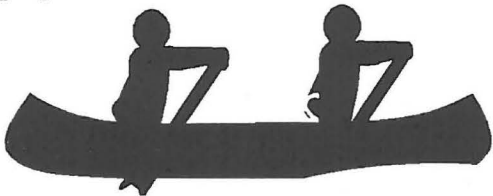
This spring's meeting of the "Friends of the Pleistocene" will be held in coastal Washington County on the weekend of June 1-2. The Friends are an informal group of scientists, students, and others with a common interest in the Ice Age history of the Northeast. The Maine Geological Survey organized last spring's field conference in the Sebago Lake area (for which the guidebook is still available), and this year's host will be the University of Maine. Coastal Washington County has some of the most interesting glacial features in New England and has recently been investigated through a joint climate change project involving geologists from both the Geological Survey and the University. For more information, contact **Woody** at #287-7178. ❖

Sportsman's Show

- Susan Benson

The Orono and Augusta Sportsman's Shows were a great success and gave Conservation employees an opportunity to spread the word about our state parks, historic sites, fire prevention efforts, public lands, snowmobile program, loon items and more. According to the organizers of the Augusta show, Saturday's attendance peaked at 7,000+!

An undertaking of this magnitude took a lot of hard work from many people. I'd like to thank not the Trade Show Committee for developing the theme of the show and creating the exhibit, and the many other people who helped with the preparation:



Judy Andrews, Pat Bailey, Anne Bills, Jim Downie, Charlene Daniels, Lil Hanning, Tom Holz, Sheila McDonald, John Poisson, and Craig Ten Broek. And of course the people who staffed the shows. In Orono: Scott Cates, Sandra Cleaves, Jeff Currier, Jim Ecker, Lee Griffin, Jay Hall, Leigh Hoar, Jarvis Johnson, Jerry Parsons, Peter Pelletier, Paul Perry, Dennis Preston, Tim Post, and Mike Wilusz. In Augusta: David Allen, Melissa Boardman, Tom Cieslinski, Jean Colfer, Ron Cyr, Charlene Daniels, Claudette Desautel, Charlene Donahue, Matt Foust, Lee Griffin, Tom Holz, Jarvis Johnson, Ralph Knoll, Shane Nichols, Donald Ouellette, Deb Phillips, Robert Ripley, Peter Smith, Tim Spahr, Steve Spencer, David Spicer, Craig Ten Broek, John Titus, and Ralph Wilkinson. Great job by all!



Movers and Shakers

Jack Dirkman has retired after 36 years of service to the State of Maine. Everyone at the Department of Conservation is grateful to Jack for his dedication, and we extend a heartfelt, "Thank you" for leaving your mark here at DOC.

Tom Doak is now at the Department of Agriculture as the Director of Office of Planning, Policy, Legislation and Information Services. Tom had been at DOC for 17 years and most recently was the Director of Policy, Planning and Information at MFS.

Catherine Varney gave birth to Julia Carroll Varney on Sunday, March 17, around 10:30 a.m. Julia weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and dons a full head of strawberry blond hair. Jean LaPointe won the baby pool. Catherine is a Permitting ES III at LURC.

Tom Wood has been named the new Director of the A.C.E. Service Center. Tom started out at LURC in 1988 as a Resource Administrator, and in 1990 transferred to the Maine Forest Service in the same capacity. Tom will move to the Center in mid-April and his new number is #287-8752.

Calendar of Events

April 8: ECO/ECO
Governor King's environmental address
Maine Audubon, Falmouth

April 11: World Wide Web Summit
Using and Creating Internet pages
University of Maine at Orono

April 15: Patriot's Day

April 22: Earth Day

April 29: Fire Awareness Proclamation

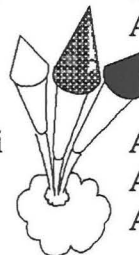


Anniversaries

25 YEARS
Gordon Bell April 26, 1971

20 YEARS
Andrew Mendes April 24, 1976
Joseph Pelletier April 11, 1976
Judith Scott April 4, 1976
Scott Woodruff April 4, 1976
David York April 11, 1976

15 YEARS
Stephen Oliveri April 21, 1981
Gary Santerre April 26, 1981
Russell Scott April 27, 1981



Send submissions for May's newsletter by Friday, April 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