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Bulletin, February 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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Bulletin

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Issue 2

Department of Conservation

February, 1996

Commissioner's Column

*I am encouraged with the progress the department is achieving and look forward to meeting with you at our upcoming **Department of Conservation Employee Meetings** in February. As I mentioned in the January 24th letter written to all DOC employees, I am scheduling these meetings to hear your feedback, address your concerns, and convey the department's plan. Only through employee feedback, can we ascertain your ideas to implement action plans. Please note that we are still working out details regarding specific meetings sites so contact your supervisor to confirm locations.*

*Two weeks ago I visited the new **Ashland Office** and was quite impressed with the building and its amenities. This facility is better than anything we could afford to build, and it is in a picturesque location boasting views of Mt. Katahdin and Aroostook County sunsets. I know for some this creates issues concerning the commute, however, after many other plans were reviewed, we decided Ashland would be the optimal location because of the facility, its central location, and the opportunity to house all Northern Maine DOC personnel under one roof. (It even has a helicopter pad for Fire Control.)*

*And speaking of new operations, the **A.C.E. Center** hosted an open house on Thursday, January 25th. Over 300 employees from all bureaus toured the center and enjoyed some tasty munchies. I am happy to see employees begin to settle into their surroundings and forge new friendships with co-workers from other departments. Chuck Hewett, the Governor's C.O.O. visited the Center and remarked that the success of this pioneering effort is critical in helping shape state government by providing cost-effective alternatives that foster competition in our evolving, global economy.*

*Last but not least, I am thrilled to officially announce the re-appointment of **Shippen Bright** as **Deputy Commissioner**. Possessing a wealth of knowledge and expertise in shaping our legislation, Ship's work is excellent, and he is very supportive of employees and the department. Ship is a key resource for DOC, and I am honored to have him as a member of our team.*

Regards,

Ron Lovaglio

Name This Newsletter!

We've got some budding poets in our midst here at the DOC, and I am overwhelmed by the response. Thanks to Liz Cody, Carol DiBello, Jill French, Lil Hanning, William Johnston, Joe Kelley, Brenda Lord, Mark MacKinnon, Don Mansius, John Picher, John B. Poisson, Gale Ross, Keith Smith, Judy Tyler, Tom Weddle, Joe Wiley, and Tom Wood for your pithy, creative entries.

Without any further adieu, here they are:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Outdoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine In A Minute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conserve | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Reaction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Bugle | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Resource |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Call | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Stream |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Trail |
| Clipsheet | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Tree-Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Wise |
| Communicator | <input type="checkbox"/> Mainely News |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mainiac |
| Conversationalist | <input type="checkbox"/> Native |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | Conservationist |
| Courier | <input type="checkbox"/> Naturally Maine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Our Conservation |
| Credits | News |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation and |
| Planet | Protection Provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Prose and Cons |
| Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Reaching for the |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | Sky |
| Messenger | <input type="checkbox"/> Save The Maine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Timber |
| Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> The Con-Serve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Net | <input type="checkbox"/> The Conservatory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> The Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cord Report | Conversation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crop & Save | <input type="checkbox"/> The DOC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> De-bark-er | Conservationist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC AZIMUTH (all | <input type="checkbox"/> The Forest Files |
| points of the | <input type="checkbox"/> The Leaflet |
| compass) | <input type="checkbox"/> The Maine Tipper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> The Maine Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> The Mission |
| Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> The Newsletter of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Observer | the Maine Depart- |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Resources | ment of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC-Talk | Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOC Times | <input type="checkbox"/> The State of ME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Watchers | <input type="checkbox"/> The Wildwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feedback | <input type="checkbox"/> The Wood Pile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> InfoDOC | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine-ly | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Tales |
| Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Talk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine-ly DOC | <input type="checkbox"/> Way of the Woods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Design | <input type="checkbox"/> What's Up DOC? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Division | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild and Woolly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Effort | Ways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Woods/Water.DOC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Ideas | |

voting rules

on back

FEB 08 1996

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Voting Rules

- ✉ One vote per employee
- 😊 Choose one title and send your vote via:
 - ✉ cc:Mail: Susan Benson and write the word **"CONTEST"** in the Subject Header!
 - 📧 Internet: Susan.Benson@state.me.us
 - ☎ Telephone: #287-4909
 - 📧 Interoffice mail: addressed to Susan Benson

All votes must be received by:

🕒 Friday, February 23, 1996

The winning title will premiere in next month's edition, and the author will choose between a Loon tote bag or T-shirt courtesy of the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Good luck! Susan ❖

Ship's On Board

I sat down with our newly, re-appointed Deputy Commissioner Ship Bright on a windy rain-swept Friday afternoon to talk about his life's adventures and where he sees the Department of Conservation heading. Kicking back in his chair, Bean boots donning his feet that were resting comfortably on the window sill, Ship spun his tale retracing his Liberty Bell city roots and experiences in between which brought him to the DOC.

Ship started out in the Navy - mere coincidence or karma? - fulfilling his desire to serve his country. Ship was stationed in Rhode Island, North Carolina, and finally at Brunswick Naval Air Station. I asked Ship what he did in the Navy and he

As a young boy, Ship remembers summers spent on Monhegan Island... there his love of Maine and her environment was born.

told me that he could tell me, but then he'd have to kill me. I didn't pursue the question. Once his tour of duty was up, Ship ventured his way into real

estate eventually owning his own company, Newcastle Square Realty, Inc. I inquired how he made the leap from escrows to the environment.

"It was an incremental evolution," said Ship. At Newcastle Square Realty, he saw the sales of, as he described, phenomenally beautiful homes in our coastal villages. As properties sold and the bidding war drove up property values, he wondered how the teachers, police officers, plumbers, sons and daughters would or could live in our towns.

These concerns culminated when Ship became a founder of the Maine Association of Realtors Charitable Foundation and Mid Coast Coalition for Affordable Housing. These 501(C)3 foundations empowered people to access funds and

housing opportunities that weren't available before. At this time he was also appointed to the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) Advisory Board where he was elected Vice-chair. "As I became more interested in the plight of local housing, and I also wondered what were the economic pumps that allowed communities to exist in the first place."

As a young boy, Ship remembers looking forward to summers spent on Monhegan Island, and because of Maine's sheer beauty his love of Maine and her environment was born. Questions like, "How do we create an economy that protects our unique environment and still allow us to exist and prosper?" and "How then do we create a sustainable economy?" created an evolution of thinking in his professional life. As Ship commented, the leading export in Lincoln County is the top half of the graduating class.

With these questions begging answers, Ship navigated through the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University to marry these philosophical issues with practical knowledge to ultimately lend his hand at crafting public policy.

His mentors were on the cutting edge of economics; they taught that public policy should provide incentives to shift the paradigm

"The best part of working at the Department of Conservation is our people..."

which states that public and private interests are always mutually exclusive to one that

financially and morally motivates private interests to act for their own good as well as the public's.

With this knowledge and experience, Ship joined the DOC in January of 1994. Ever since then he has been creating and shaping environmental policy and programs. "The best part of working at the Department of Conservation is our people, and what separates DOC from other state agencies is the nature, and the nurture, of the work we do," he remarked. Ship recalls treks to the Allagash Wilderness Waterway with **Kim Lynch** and **Steve Whipperman**, tours of Old Town with **Dave Wight**, travels to Island Falls with **Russ Beauchemin** and time spent around the Rangeley Lakes with **Tim Spahr**. "All of us feel a proprietary sense about our job, whether it's the unorganized territories, parks, lands, or forests. The people at DOC do what they do because they deeply care about Maine's natural resources. Maine's economy is her environment and we are on the front line of nurturing our resources. I hope to be an agent of change that educates policymakers that if you want to enjoy the "golden eggs" you've got take care of the "goose that lays them." I feel really lucky to be working with so many talented and hard working people here at DOC."

I, for one, am glad Ship's on board! ❖



My First Official DOC Road Trip Trekking to the Richardson Unit

Weather was on our side as **Ralph Knoll**, Bureau of Parks and Lands Planning and Land Acquisition Director and I, **Susan Benson**, Director of Information, left the world of telephones and computers behind for a day, and set out on our trek to see the tree harvesting operation on the Richardson Unit. The Unit is managed by Parks and Lands and can be found on Maps #18 and #28 in your Maine Gazetteer.

At Richardson we met up with Parks and Lands Forester **Pete Smith**, and contractors Scott Millbury and Joe Haley to witness the state-of-the-art harvester, Rottne 2002, in action. Puffy snowflakes fell as our group hiked a half a mile into the stand that was being harvested. "What you'll see here today is good silviculture," Ralph said. He proceeded to explain that the stand was being thinned from below which allows the remaining stems to respond and grow at an increased rate, and enables sunlight to filter into the once-thick stand, enhancing regeneration.

Pete determines which trees to cut, and I saw his work first hand as I panned the stand with my video camera. The dark-wooded trees dressed with a light coating of new snow were accented by indigo blue paint markings. As Pete explained, the marked trees would remain to mature. By selectively harvesting the stand, the remaining trees will grow to sawlog size faster.

According to Ralph, the Rottne 2002 and the Forwarder work in tandem to harvest softwood stands containing small diameter spruce, fir and pine trees. The Rottne cuts, de-limbs, and processes trees to market length and the Forwarder follows behind gathering and delivering the stacks of wood to the yard.

The Rottne enters the stand first, cutting trees and leaving behind a carpet of brush on the main

skid trails. Logger Scott Millbury commented that the Rottne leaves this bed of brush behind so the Forwarder can travel on it. This minimizes the machines' impact on the forest. In addition, the Rottne's precise cutting arm is not as detrimental to the remaining stems as compared to other harvesting systems.

We approached the harvester, and I noticed how the Rottne resembled a one-armed praying mantis as its mechanical arm reached into a stand to select a tree for cutting. I climbed up into the heated cab to get a first hand view of the operation. "It's the Cadillac of harvesters," commented operator Bruce Trafton. When Bruce moved the claw-like arm of the machine, computer sensors located in the arm's base determine the diameter of the tree, which is then cut close to the ground. This information, along with fuel and other critical data, is displayed

*It's the Cadillac
of harvesters.*

on a panel located on the cab's dashboard. The claw, still holding the tree, feeds it through the end of the cutting mechanics. Here, two huge tires that are encircled by steel chains hang on the bottom of the arm, and suck up the tree as if it were a strand of spaghetti. The de-limbed tree, processed to market length, spits out the other side and will be picked up by the Forwarder later. Quite impressive. All the harvesting is done in the woods.

As mentioned earlier, accompanying us on this trek were Scott and Joe, the owners of M & H Loggers, the contractors in charge of this operation. The Bureau of Parks and Lands entered into a long-term commitment with Scott and Joe which has enabled them to purchase the 2002 and Forwarder. "This agreement enables the State to have access to this technology, improve our silviculture, and

capture revenue off acres which were previously not available," stated Ralph. The Bureau is able to operate in stands that up until now were not harvested because it was too costly and foresters, like Pete Smith, could not practice good silviculture due to these circumstances.

Well, Lady Luck was on my side and my video camera battery died just after Ralph ended his tour of the Rottne cab. We hiked back to our vehicles, thanked our hosts, shook hands and were on our way. Traveling down the bumpy, one-way logging road, we wound our way back to paved blacktop and civilization. With my first Official DOC Road Trip coming to an end, I reflected on how much I enjoyed the chance to tour the Richardson Unit and witness good silviculture. ❖

We approached the harvester, and I noticed how the Rottne resembled a one-armed praying mantis as its mechanical arm reached into a stand to select an unmarked tree for cutting.



Computer Chat

"I can't believe how much a computer has changed our lives!" remarked **Melissa Boardman**. When Melissa decided to take advantage of the State Employee Home Computer Loan Program, she never anticipated how one purchase could affect her family's daily routine. "I thought with a computer at home I'd use Lotus Suite, and would be able to read my e-mail, you know, basic stuff like that." But according to Melissa, life will never be the same for the Boardman household.

Her two sons, six year-old Drew and three year-old Ross, fight over who will use the computer first. Ross' favorite CD-ROM is a tour of the San Diego Zoo. "It's a great learning tool," stated Melissa. Ross tours zoo exhibits, scrolls through the animal roster, and listens to the tour talk! Not bad for a three year old. "I thought he was way too young to use it, but after a couple hours of instruction, Ross was fine," Melissa commented.

Now instead of watching TV, Melissa and her husband are engaged in a video murder mystery. "We've got one murder solved and are working on the other. After each press conference, the questions are different and we have to start all over again." (Melissa will let us know the scoop once they figure it out.)

After completing extensive research, Melissa received a quote listing the computer and printer she wanted, got the forms from Mary Ann Sargent, returned the filled-out forms to Mary Ann, and had the check in hand seven days later. "It's a piece of cake," remarked Melissa. With her new

Pentium 100 computer equipped with CD ROM, an audio card and a color printer, Melissa and her family are spending a lot of fun time, learning

Loan Stats:

*\$1,000 - \$3,000
6.5% interest
12, 18, 24, 30 & 36
month terms*

together.

If you are interested in the State Employee Home Computer Loan Program, the details are outlined on the State's home page on the Internet or you can contact **Mary Ann Sargent** at **287-4928**. Basically, all you have to do is get the form from Mary Ann, and an invoice from the computer vendor listing the full amount of your purchase and model numbers. Loan amounts range from **\$1,000 to \$3,000 at 6.5% interest with 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 month terms**. Payments are made through payroll deductions, and the Program ends **June 30, 1996**. ❖

Mental Health Awareness Training

With the establishment of the **A.C.E. Service Center**, DOC employees need to travel to the Marquardt Building for assistance with payroll, employee benefits, and related human resource and accounting issues. In response to concerns raised by some employees, we are developing **Mental Health Awareness Training** for employees who conduct business at the center.

The AMHI staff supports our training request, and to facilitate those sessions, **Deb Phillips** will develop questions derived from the issues and concerns you have. These elements will be addressed during the training.

We also need an estimate of how many people are interested in this training in order to schedule dates of classes.

Please get this information to **Deb Phillips** by **Wednesday, February 14, 1996**.

In the meantime, if you run into a problem with clients at the Marquardt Building and the nursing staff on the 2nd floor cannot help you, please call Linwood Diket at 758-9979 (beeper). If he has not returned your call after five minutes, you should contact the AMHI Switchboard at 287-7200. Please get back to me with questions.

- Deb Phillips ❖



Send your story ideas to:

Susan Benson
Director of Information
Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

#287-4909

cc:Mail: Susan Benson at DOC
Susan Benson@state.me.us