

9-1-1995

# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information, September 1995

Maine Department of Conservation

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## Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information, September 1995" (1995). *Conservation Newsletters*. 157.  
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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information September 1995 LIBRARY USE ONLY

# BULLETIN

Forestry

Geology

Land Use Regulation

Parks and Recreation

Public Lands

## Commissioner's Column

### Productivity Task Force and restructuring actions

The restructuring work that we have been engaged in for the Productivity Realization Task Force has been a challenging and emotionally taxing endeavor for all of us. The uncertainty of what the future may bring, the upcoming layoffs, and the bumping that will ensue creates an atmosphere of concern, fear and mistrust. I wish there was an easy and painless way to accomplish the changes necessary. I also wish that we would have had more time to involve more people and to take our time in examining every detail. Unfortunately we were not allowed that time.

After making adjustments to our original plan, the Task Force unanimously passed our proposal and it is now before the Governor. I expect that the plan will be accepted with perhaps some parts of the plan held for legislative approval. I expect that some layoff notices will go out very soon. There will be no layoff notices given until the governor approves the plan and notices will be given with as much notice as possible.

To those who will receive layoff notices I want you to know that I understand your pain and frustration at losing your job. To assist all those affected by layoff and bumping, I have appointed Sheila McDonald to be the department's outplacement coordinator. Between Sheila, myself, your bureau director, and the rest of my staff we will work with you to lessen the burden of this layoff and your search to find future employment. The state is providing services for those who will be changing jobs within the state system or leaving state service. There is a full-time state support and outplacement services coordinator who will be based out of the Bureau of Human Resources. This person will be working for the next year to provide services to employees affected by the downsizing. The Bureau of Human Resources will also be taking steps to make people aware of job openings within state government and will be working with departments to facilitate the re-hiring of people who are laid off. State employees who are laid off will also be eligible for a variety of job placement, support, and training services available through the Rapid Employment and Training Initiative which is a program in the Department of Labor.

Amidst the concerns over the process by which the restructuring has been handled along with the depression and fatigue around the layoffs and bumping, I also hear optimism and continuing commitment. We have created the framework of a new department that makes sense to people in and out of state government. We are positioning ourselves to respond to our legislative mandates with a form that meets our functions.

While being mindful of the contributions made by those who were laid off, I will be asking you to help rebuild the strength and cohesion of our organization as we move through this restructuring. For those who remain we must turn our attention to managing the mission of our department within its new structure. We have a tradition and reputation of excellent customer service in the management of Maine's natural resources that we must continue and fulfill.

**Ronald B. Lovaglio, Commissioner**

## Regional Park of the Year Award announced

This year's "Regional Park of the Year" award goes to Fort Knox State Historic Site in Prospect, Lobster Lake - Penobscot River Corridor, Damariscotta Lake State Park in Jefferson, Lily Bay State Park near Greenville, and Eagle Island State Historic Site in Casco Bay.

These areas were selected from among forty Bureau of Parks and Recreation facilities, and were evaluated by their peers in areas of teamwork, attention to detail, customer service, maintenance, and community involvement. The five regional finalists will now compete, based upon the same criteria, for the bureau's "Park of the Year," which will be awarded in August of 1996.

Congratulations to staff at each award-winning park: Lobster Lake - Barry Welch, Sue Welch (MVP Volunteer); Eagle Island - Dave Chaney, Maurice Giasson, Jean Dorrington; Lily Bay - Mark Wight, John Horton, Brenda Crandall, Dyna Curtis, Pam Codrey, Jolyn Guay; Damariscotta Lake - Jay McIntosh, John White, Chum Cram, Allyson Kirkpatrick, Matthew Farrell, Michelle Mason, Clarissa Percival, Joshua Peaslee (Student Intern); Fort Knox - Frank Appleby, Dick Robbins, Blaine Winchester, John Kandetzki, Jason Krienke, Sarah White, Linda Longfellow, Rich Donaher.

## Personnel News

### Promoted

Russell Beauchemin to Regional Forest Ranger in Island Falls

### Resigned

Fred Griffith, Environ. Specialist III, LURC, effective 9/8/95

## Conservation Notes

Forest Rangers **Lance and Arnold Martin** have been honored by state and federal agencies for their role in the evacuation of Allagash flood victims in 1991. The rangers received certificates "for brave and heroic efforts to rescue citizens trapped by the catastrophic flood of April 1991 in Allagash, Maine." The awards were presented during a ceremony attended by more than 300 people opening the new Dickey Bridge over the St. John River.

State park lifeguards have won the team trophy at the 15th annual Maine State Lifeguard Championships. Team members were: **Christen Stewart, Jeff Winslow, Seth Thornton, Betheny Martin, Nat Woodruff** (Reid); **Regina Martin** (Popham); **Jesse Caron, Penny Robinson, Kim Bouchard, Tim Murch** (Sebago); **Rich Hemingway** (Mt. Blue).

Individual event results were:

**Two mile run:** N. Woodruff-1st; R. Hemingway, 2nd and K. Bouchard, 5th. **500 yd. swim:** J. Winslow, 2nd; J. Caron, 3rd, B. Martin, 3rd and P. Robinson, 5th. **Surf Rescue:** Seth Thornton, 1st; Bethany Martin, 2nd. **Rescue Board:** T. Murch, 5th; C. Stewart, 1st and P. Robinson, 4th. **Run Swim Run:** J. Winslow, 2nd; J. Caron, 5th- R. Martin, 2nd and K. Bouchard, 4th. **Iron Guard:** S. Thornton, 2nd - C. Stewart, 4th. **Reel:** State Park Team, 1st - S. Thornton, N. Woodruff, J. Caron and C. Stewart. **Mystery Event,** State Park Team, 3rd. J. Winslow, T. Murch, R. Hemingway and P. Robinson. **Beach Flags:** R. Martin, 2nd.

The rescue of a swimmer is an important event that requires lots of preparation. But that hard work pays off for 20 - 30 people who are plucked from lakes and surf each summer season by the department's lifeguard staff. The effect of that work was brought home recently to **Betheny Martin**, a lifeguard at Reid State Park. On a day when Betheny rescued a 14 year old boy from a rip current, park staff found this note in the area's comment box: "Thank God for your lifeguards. They saved our son's life today." SEP 21 1995

Thanks to quick staff action, a recent crime at Reid State Park is well on its way to being solved. According to Regional Supervisor **Tim Hall**, when a Reid State park visitor reported to Park Manager **Dan Bell** that a window had been broken out of a parked vehicle, Dan wasted no time contacting park staff and the local sheriff for assistance. Within moments a suspicious vehicle was spotted, observed and documented, and its movements led staff to discover evidence that a theft had occurred.

Information and evidence collected by park rangers was used by the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department to apprehend suspects in the case, and stolen possessions were returned to their owners. Thanks go to **Dan Bell, Samantha Tessari, Ron Shaw** and **Sarah Crosby** for their quick thinking and action.

**Sally Doyle** was honored on September 9 during the 1995 state park picnic at Swan Lake State Park in recognition of her August retirement from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. An exquisitely carved gray wolf, created especially for Sally by former Operations and Maintenance Supervisor **Ed Beach** of Readfield, was among the gifts.

Thanks to the Hampden VFW and assistance from Champion International, and Wardwell Construction an eight ton Rodman cannon has been relocated to Fort Knox State Historic Site. The cannon is believed to have been part of the fort's ordnance during the latter part of the 19th century, during which the cannon was refitted to protect the area against threat of bombardment by the Spanish fleet during the Spanish American War. Ft. Knox staff assisting in this endeavor were Manager **Frank Appleby, Brian Winchester** and **Dick Robbins**.

Coastweek is coming! September 30 through October 7 is Coastweek in Maine, marked by special events in many state parks and historic sites. Coastal cleanup activities are planned so far at Camden Hills, Ferry Beach, Moose Point, Popham Beach, Two Lights/Crescent Beach/Kettle Cove, Wolfe's Neck Woods, Fort Point, and Owl's Head Light/Birch Point Beach. If you'd like to join the celebration of Maine's links to the sea, contact the manager of a park listed above, or call **Laura Taylor** at the State Planning Office, 287-3261.

Arson is the leading cause of Maine forest fire in 1995.

Three Maine Forest Service employees helped control Long Island, New York forest fires that made national news for several days in late August. Pilot **Harold Jones** and Mechanic **Ray Hichborn** responded to a request from Northeast Forest Fire Compact member New York state, the U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Maine to send a helicopter. Ranger **Harry Doughty** was requested as a Air Operations Director to serve with the Region 9 Incident Management Team.

There were four fires in the complex: 2, 25 and 500 acres. The 500 acre fire threatened more than 700 homes. Harold shared his knowledge with military pilots who did not have much experience with water dropping and was a major influence in a successful operation. The state of New York was very grateful for the contributions of the DOC personnel.

**Tim Spar**, the Land Use Regulation Commission's representative in Rangeley, has been commended for his ability to work with landowners to solve operational problems.

Tim worked with International Paper Company Forester **Thomas Dodd** to resolve a problem concerning a brook in Chain of Ponds Township. Dodd wrote, "I deeply appreciate your ability to solve this and other problems. Through your presence, LURC has clearly demonstrated a desire to work with the landowner to solve operational problems. This has led to a greater efficiency for both of our organizations. Working together, we can quickly determine when a permit is required and what that permit should include. That enables us to either proceed where a permit is not called for, or to include the right information the first time where a permit is necessary. LURC gains by having an on site review already completed when a permit application is received and can decide whether or not the application is complete. The presence of LURC's field office in western Maine, coupled with empowerment of the Enforcement Investigator, is a big plus for the landowner. I feel much more comfortable about calling on a local office for help on issues such as this brook. This is a benefit to both sides."

Two miles of the Sequinland Road in Georgetown have been "adopted" by the staff of Reid State Park. Volunteers from the park staff will keep the roadside clean as a community outreach project, according to park manager **Dan Bell**.

The department will issue the second 1995 fall foliage report today. Forest Fire Control Division personnel make weekly estimates of color and leaf drop in each of seven weather zones and report them to Augusta. The information is sent to the Maine Publicity Bureau and the media for public dissemination. This is the thirty-sixth year the Maine Forest Service has provided this support to Maine's tourism industry.

Since Maine is such an excellent tourist destination, state park staff often recognize and greet celebrities visiting facilities. So far this season, celebrity watchers at mid-coast facilities report visits from **Kristie Alley** (star of "Cheers"); governors from Wyoming and Georgia (visiting Camden Hills at the invitation of **Governor King**); and **Jimmy Dean** (singing star and sausage mogul).

Sebago Lake State Park Manager **Mike Leighton**, Interpretive Ranger **Noelle Thurlow**, Forest Ranger **John Leavitt** and Lifeguard **Dave McCluskey** celebrated Smokey's birthday at the park in August. More than 400 people received souvenirs and cake.

New park brochures have arrived at Fort Edgecomb State Historic Site. The brochures, developed in cooperation between the Friends of Fort Edgecomb and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, were published by the Friends with additional donations by a local printing vendor. Thanks are owed to **Sheila McDonald** and Park Manager **Jim Davis** for their efforts in bringing this important interpretive brochure back for park visitors.

Forest Ranger **Bud Nason** thanks everyone who contacted him while he was in the hospital. "It meant a great deal to me to know I have so many friends who care. Your thoughts gave me a big boost when I really needed one. I am doing well now and hope to return to work soon. Thanks again," Bud Nason.

**John Titus** attended the Open Space Conference on Volunteerism in Maine sponsored by the Maine Commission for Community Service. Twenty-five people from public and private volunteer programs participated in 3-days of strategic planning to define the commission's role in the future of Maine volunteerism.