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Maine Department of Conservation

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Maine Department of Conservation

Employee News and Information

August 1995 LIBRARY USE ONLY

BULLETIN

Forestry

Geology

Land Use Regulation

Parks and Recreation

Public Lands

Legislative Actions Affect DOC Programs

The 117th Maine Legislature made a number of changes affecting DOC programs. Here are some highlights.

- BPL was directed to conduct a task force study of submerged lands issues and make recommendations to the legislature in January.
- To enhance the effectiveness of the Forest Service 1-800 wild-fire arson phone line, caller identity was protected.
- Communities were authorized to register federal excess property vehicles enabling them to cross municipal boundaries.
- The tree growth tax law was amended to allow people who produce commercial forest products to remain in the program whether or not those products are actually sold.
- A major gap in the law directing the Maine Forest Service to collect wood export / import information was filled to allow a more complete and accurate analysis of this sensitive issue.
- The timber trespass law was amended to make it easier for landowners to recover losses caused by timber trespass.
- A LURC regulation allowing county commissioners to maintain roads, bridges and culverts by standard (permit not required) was adopted as a statute.
- LURC waterfront setback requirements for single family residences were applied to sporting camp guest lodging facilities. Any sporting camp building that is destroyed may now be reconstructed within two years on the same footprint. Additionally, remote campsites were defined, and limitations, suggested by large landowners and the Maine Sporting Camp Association, were placed on the size of trailers, the number of campsites and campers, and the length of stay.
- The LURC application fee for a change in zoning from management district to development district was eliminated.
- Fees on nonresident snowmobile registrations were raised from \$35 to \$60 annually to bring an estimated additional \$200,000 to the Snowmobile Trail Fund.
- An increase was made in the percentage of gasoline tax money going to the Snowmobile Trail Fund, and to establish an ATV Recreation Management Fund. The ATV fund will receive an estimated \$40,000 to \$53,000 a year, and the snowmobile program will receive an annual increase of \$150,000 to \$200,000.
- Existing seawalls may be built higher, deeper, and farther out without restrictions or state review despite Maine Geological Survey opposition based on experience and science.
- The director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation was authorized to sell the Trial house in Augusta. The planned sale of the property has been cancelled now that the Trial house is the home of the Natural Areas Program.
- Loon plate reregistration was reduced from \$20 to \$15. Initial registration is still \$20, but the reregistration money should bring an estimated \$160,000 to \$200,000 annually. The money will now be distributed to BPR quarterly rather than annually.
- The Bureau of Public Lands assisted the legislature with real estate transfer issues, correcting a nonpayment of taxes problem, and transferring a historic Dennysville building to a private historical society for use as a public museum.

Please contact Deputy Commissioner Shippen Bright for more information.

Conservation Notes

The Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management elected officers and developed a work plan during the council's first meeting. **Governor King** created the council by executive order and asked it to deliver four products during its fifteen month tenure: a practical definition of forest sustainability; criteria and goals to ensure forests are sustainably managed; a methodology enabling DOC to monitor forest landowners' progress toward achievement of forest sustainability goals; and, an assessment of the adequacy of forest practice rules and regulations in achieving sustainable forest management.

The council will meet again on August 21 in Orono, and on September 15 at a western Maine location to be announced.

Conservation Commissioner **Ron Lovaglio** chairs the council. MFS director **Chuck Gadzik** was elected vice-chair. Consulting forester and attorney **Izzy McKay** was elected secretary. Other council members are: **Gary Cobb** (Pierce Pond Camps), **Malcolm Hunter** (UMO), Janet McMahon (The Nature Conservancy), **Richard Schneider** (Comstock Woodlands), **Robert Seymour** (UMO), **Donald Tardie** (Fraser Paper), and, **Peter Triandafilou** (James River).

For more information or to find out how you can comment on the council's work, contact **Donald Mansius** in the Commissioner's Office (e-mail, or 7-4906).

An updated twelfth edition of *Forest Trees of Maine* with some new illustrations and expanded information on important Maine tree species is available from the MFS.

First published in 1908, *Forest Trees of Maine* is one of the state's oldest continuously produced publications and has been used by generations of teachers, students and others interested in Maine's outdoors.

In response to frequent requests for a weather resistant format to make the booklet a more durable field guide to Maine trees, the Forest Service offers the latest edition of the venerable publication on waterproof material for \$5. The traditional paper edition is also available and is priced at \$1.

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The twelfth edition describes fourteen native conifers, fifty-two broadleaf trees, thirty-one exotic species and varieties, and seventeen native shrubs, hybrids and varieties. The 113 page booklet contains information about Maine's forests, forest products, autumn coloration, Arbor Week and the state and national Big Tree registers.

Moose Point State Park visitors have been treated to exceptional wildlife experiences this season. According to Park Manager **Shirley Clark**, young deer have been making appearances at the picnic area, loons regularly call one another from the bay, and turtles occasionally visit picnickers. But the most impressive wildlife host is **Rocky**, a harbor seal who drops by the park regularly to educate school groups and entertain visitors. His antics draw applause from folks gathered to watch him, and visitors who miss his appearances have been known to return to the park later, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Moose Point celebrity.

Tim Hall, Central Region Parks supervisor, was recently acknowledged for his work on the United States Lifesaving Association's Manual of Open Water Lifesaving. Tim wrote the first draft of the lifeguard textbook in 1991, and worked with the USLA Textbook Committee through the book's publication earlier this year. Tim is also the author of the Lifeguard Services Manual, published in Bermuda in 1989.

WGME-TV and WQCBY radio received the Bronze **Smokey** Award for their support for forest fire prevention. The award is made by the National Association of State Foresters, the USDA Forest Service and the National Advertising Council.

Andrea Erskine, IF&W's regulations officer, recently informed **Marshall Wiebe** that his request to publish the Maine Forest Service arson number in IF&W law books has been approved. Andrea is DOC's former public information secretary.

Visitors to Popham Beach State Park were treated to a very special evening on July 15, as the park was turned over to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Sequin Island lighthouse. According to Park Manager **Ben Kreiton**, the highlight of the evening, which was sponsored by the Friends of Sequin Island, was a beautiful fireworks display, fired from Sequin Island and Fox Island.

According to **Tom Skolfield**, BPR, Southern Region supervisor, Fort McClary State Historic Site helped celebrate the commissioning of this nation's largest submarine. The USS Maine entered Portsmouth Harbor on July 19th with a water show display and fireworks along with a twenty-one gun salute presented by two civil war cannons fired from Fort McClary. Park Manager, **Tom Collins** and staff were excited by the opportunity to tour the new submarine by special invitation.

The MCC crews are hard at work this summer in BPR's northeast region completing projects that park crews would not have had time to accomplish. Under the leadership of team leader, **Scott Kady**, they are working on various projects at Lamoine State Park, Fort Knox Historic Site and Holbrook Island Sanctuary. They have cut brush, reclaimed campsites, replaced rail fence, painted buildings and remarked trails. Partial funding and transportation costs of the projects is being provided by the Friends of Fort Knox and Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary. **Phil Farr**, manager of Holbrook Island Sanctuary, is project supervisor.

During a visit to Moose Point State Park, **Tom Driscoll** of the Maine Forest Service was very impressed with the work of the park's staff.

In a letter, Tom commended **Buster Clark** and other staff for maintaining the Moose Point in "immaculate" condition, and for creating a positive image of Maine for thousands of tourists who stop at the park on Route 1 Seaport.

Commissioner Lovaglio responded to Tom's letter by saying, "It's important to support our people and the positive comments about their work and customer relations. I get excited when the public recognizes the customer service efforts of Department of Conservation employees."

BPL's new series of visitor guides to public lands will be featured in several publications including *Maine Fish and Wildlife* magazine, *Maine Outdoors* and *Explore New England*.

Four guides are available and nine are in preparation, all free and printed on water resistant paper. Each guide includes maps of the area's location and features, information about activities and facilities, and rules. Phone numbers for campfire permits, hunting and fishing and other information are listed. The pocket guides make it easy to locate public land and to have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Reid State Park workers **Ron Shaw** and **Steve Thibodeau** were commended for assistance they recently gave a park visitor who said both employees were an "excellent representation of the state of Maine." The commendation was made in a letter to Conservation Commissioner **Ron Lovaglio** who told Ron and Steve, "nice going guys - great customer service."

DOC employees **Gary Morse**, **Bruce Reed**, **Otis Gray** and **Tim Post** are helping prepare for the Fifth Annual Forest Heritage Days in Greenville on August 12. Forest fire control and prevention exhibits and demonstrations are among the many activities planned.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife plans to reprint *TREAT ME RIGHT*, the outdoor ethics promotional brochure produced by **Marshall Wiebe** and former IF&W Director of Public Information **Tom Shoener**.

Fall canoeing on the Allagash will be featured in the October edition Men's Health magazine. The Rodale publication has a circulation of 1.2 million.

Forest Ranger **Garry Cook** and the Brownville Hot Shot fire fighting crew has been featured on WABI-TV.

Forest Rangers **Bill Williams** and **Tim Post**, and **Stu Jacobs** from the Fire Marshal's Office, investigated a fire that destroyed an Onawa lake cottage. Three men were charged with illegal fireworks use in connection with the incident.

The rangers are also investigating a fire that destroyed a valuable cottage on Monson Pond that was started by an unattended campfire. The MFS 1-800-987-0257 arson report line is producing useful information, rangers say.

Forest Rangers **Bruce Reed**, **Bill Williams**, and **Otis Gray** have helped produce a television public service announcement designed to help prevent fires caused by unattended campfires.

Forest Rangers **Jeff Currier** and **Courtney Hammond** appeared in a page one Bangor Daily News photo and story about an arson investigation in Washington County. The rangers completed another investigation this spring that resulted in charges of arson against a Lubec man.