

7-1-1995

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

Maine Department of Conservation

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### Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information, July 1995" (1995).  
*Conservation Newsletters*. 159.  
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# Maine Department of Conservation Employee News and Information July 1995

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## BULLETIN

Forestry

Geology

Land Use Regulation

Parks and Recreation

Public Lands

### Legislative Highlights

#### • Loon plate changes benefit consumers, BPR

Two bills passed by the legislature positively affected Maine people who purchase loon plates and the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, which receives income from loon plate sales. For the benefit of consumers, the cost for renewing loon license plate registrations has been decreased from \$20 annually to \$15 annually. The cost of the initial purchase of loon plates remains at \$20. With this new rate structure, the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife also receive more from each loon plate sold. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation receives \$8.40 from each loon plate sold or renewed, whereas previously, the bureau received \$6.00 from each plate sold or renewed.

#### • \$660,000 de-appropriation restored

In another development, the budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor included \$660,000 in general fund money to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation over the biennium. These funds restored a de-appropriation in the same amount last biennium that necessitated the use of loon plate funds for general operations instead of repairs and capital improvements. Now that funds from the sale of loon plates are no longer needed for operational expenses, and are exclusively available for repairs and capital improvements, the bureau will be initiating several capital improvement projects this summer and fall to improve state park and historic site facilities statewide.

#### • Outdoor Heritage Fund OKed

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was enacted to provide a new lottery fund dedicated to Maine wildlife and outdoor recreation. Income will be split 35 percent for fisheries and wildlife habitat conservation; 35 percent for public lands, access, outdoor recreation sites and facilities; 15 percent for endangered and threatened species; and 15 percent for natural resource law enforcement.

A Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board will oversee the new program. The commissioner of conservation and coordinator of the Natural Areas Program are two of the three permanent board members. DOC is well represented on this board.

#### • Maine Natural Areas Program transferred to DOC

The Maine Natural Areas Program has ARRIVED! Recently transferred from DECD, MNAP will further DOC's efforts in conservation through the collection and provision of information on statewide inventories and monitoring efforts documenting the location, condition, and status of Maine's biota.

MNAP staff recently hosted Dr. Ron Pulliam, Director of the National Biological Service, during his visit to Maine to kick off the State Partnership between NBS and MNAP via a \$72,890 grant to MNAP from NBS. This will fund the MNAP's work on a statewide biodiversity assessment, its improvement of descriptions and classifications of natural forest types in Maine, and exchanges of selected data with other groups.

MNAP terrestrial ecologists Sue Gawler and Francie Smith have been assisting with the pre-burn monitoring of Maine Army National Guard's Hollis site. Francie will present information on MNAP's mission and rare plants in Maine for the Thompson Lake Environmental Association on July 10. Gail Wippelhauser, MNAP's marine ecologist, is headed up to Cobscook Bay for the next six weeks to field test the marine natural community classification. Tim Case and Sarah Holbrook, information services staff, have been busy fulfilling information requests from Maine Audubon Society and Champion Paper.

### DOC People

#### New

- John S. Williams, LURC Director

#### Transferred

- Peter Beringer, Forester I
- Pat Simard, Clerk Typist III, to Agriculture

#### Retired

- Joe Blair and Bill Cleaves, from BPR

#### Resigned

- David Allender, from LURC

### Conservation Notes

#### Leland Griffin, Lake St.

George State Park manager, recently assisted in the rescue of two park visitors who fell from a canoe just offshore of the park. Lee points to the incident in reminding people to WEAR THEIR LIFE JACKETS when boating, especially when their swimming skills are in question. Thanks, Leland!

#### Fire Prevention Specialist Jim Downie and State Supervisor

Tom Parent attended the Northeast Forest Fire Supervisors meeting in Maryland. Jim was presented with a Silver **Smokey Bear** award by the US Forest Service for his work in forest fire prevention within Maine, the Compact and Northeast Area. Jim has worked on several special projects in the last few years that have brought recognition to the Maine Forest Service. One public service announcement featuring "Rescue 911's" **William Shatner**, was remade for use outside Maine. The Silver Smokey Award is very prestigious, only a few are given nationally. Congratulations Jim.

The Maine Forest Service sent fire equipment to Roberval, Quebec (200 miles north of Quebec City) on July 1. The Northeast Forest Fire Compact requested that Maine supply 12 portable kits and 24,000 feet of hose or about 1/3 of the compact request. **Randy Wood**, mechanic from Old Town, delivered the supplies. Quebec had over 200 lightning fires in one day.

### Department of Conservation Quality Management Council Allocates TQM \$

In October of 1994, the department's quality council approved a plan for the allocation of the department's FY 95 share (\$70,917) of state Total Quality Management funds. According to Karen Michaud, the plan recognized the need to support bureau councils with funds for training as the councils implemented TQM. In addition, money was allocated to continue a major upgrade of DOC's information system begun with FY94 TQM funds.

This January, budget reductions reduced DOC's TQM balance to \$22,726, a 66 percent hit. This money paid for bureau training (\$4,056) and Communications PAT expenses (\$1,574). The balance will pay for facilitator and mid-level manager training for 74 employees throughout FY 96, and communications improvements including a remote access server, data lines, modems and a computer system upgrade to 250 users.

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## Conservation Notes continued

Maine State Park campground users in 1990 spent just over \$4 million in direct expenditures related to their campground visit; almost \$3 million of this total was incurred by non-residents. These expenditures were estimated by several graduate students at the Department of Resource Economics and Policy of the University of Maine at Orono under the guidance of Professor **Stephen D. Reiling**. Data was collected through a survey of 525 state park campground users in 1990. Other information collected through the survey included age and education of the party lead, trip characteristics, recreational activities of campers, and preferences for campground attributes. For more information or a copy of the 14 page report contact **Tom Cieslinski**.

Several DOC personnel recently completed a week-long facilitators training course conducted by the State Office of Quality and Training. The training course covered all aspects of TQM facilitator work such as meeting management, communication concepts, group dynamics, consensus building, problem solving, and project management. Those attending and graduating from the course were: **Tom Wood** and **Jim Blanck** from MFS; **Henry Nichols** and **Caroline Eliot** from LURC; **Linda LaCroix** from Administrative Services; **Steve Dickson** from MGS; **Gail Tunstead** and **Steve Oliveri** from BPL; and **Sheila McDonald** from BPR.

**Tom Skolfield**, BPR southern regional supervisor, reports that a state park float was a big success in the Naples Day Parade in June. The float, featuring a waste recycling message, along with a campsite complete with campfire, tent, picnic table, trees, wildlife and a pond, was well received by a huge crowd of parade watchers. Sebago Lake State Park Manager **Mike Leighton** and family, along with staff members **Mary Ann Griffin**, **Noelle Thurlow**, **Scott Dyer** and **Karol Carlson** volunteered many long hours to this community spirited project.

**Sue Starrett**, **Pete Smith**, **Tom Morrison**, and **Lori Sheive** participated in OIS and Capitol Computers computer training.

**Steve Davala**, **Amanda Normand**, **Rachel Cormier** and **Michael Sinclair** will be conducting single-channel seismic surveys, calculating seismic velocities, and analyzing other field data in the Sanford area for the MGS Sand

and Gravel Aquifer program during this summer's field season.

Additionally, **Brian Keezer** and **John Harker** will be digitizing and automating various geologic and topographic maps for MGS during the summer.

**Bob Marvinney**, **Woody Thompson**, **Joe Kelley**, and **Tom Weddle** are working with Maine Public Broadcasting during July to produce a geology program for MPBN's Quest series to be aired this fall.

A record high of 32 applications requesting \$143,000 were received for the 1995 Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant Program according to **Chuck Gadzik**. A total of 22 applications were awarded for \$99,000 and locally matched with \$190,000 for total program impact of \$289,000.

**Dennis Brennan**, **Kathy Nitschke**, and **Tom Whitworth** have conducted field inspections for communities that have filed for grant reimbursement where tree planting was a component. The inspections took place for the Small Business Administration Tree Planting Initiative, and the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program (formerly America the Beautiful).

**Kathy Nitschke** gave a silviculture presentation for another CLP training class in Lincoln. The total for all CLP classes to date stands at 447 loggers trained. Total active certified loggers is 1,044 with more than 200 preregistered for 1996. She also wrote an article on woodlot harvesting for the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District summer newsletter.

The State Envirothon Competition for teams of high school students was held at Sebago Lake State Park on June 2, 1995. Five separate test subject areas were given with **Merle Ring** giving the forestry test. Merle also wrote the state test, as well as the statewide regional test for forestry. One hundred fifty students and advisors participated from 15 different school systems from throughout Maine. Mt. Blue won the competition with southern Aroostook second and Mt. View High School third.

As part of a federal program review, State Forester **Chuck Gadzik** and State Entomologist **Dave Struble** met with the chief of the US Forest Service and staff to discuss local USFS-State and Private Forestry programs.

**Dick Bradbury** gave a talk on browntail moth to the 21st annual Maine Biological and Medical Sciences Symposium.

**Dick Dearborn** taught a one week course on beetles at the Eagle Hill Experiment Station.

**Henry Trial** reports that Forest Health Monitoring crews have all been certified and are on schedule for collecting this summer's data. Initial reports from I&DM field staff indicate that, although hemlock looper populations are subsiding, populations of a number of hardwood pests appear to be increasing.

Some members of the Fire Control division spent the week of June 26 - 30 in Concord, New Hampshire attending an instructor hand-off course for new Incident Command training. These rangers will be used as instructors for future training and participate on the Northeast Forest Fire Compact Incident Management Team. **Harry Doughty** was one of four instructors for the course. Attendees were; **Jim Downie**, **Russ Beauchemin**, **Roger McLellan**, **Bruce Reed**, **Bill Hamilton**, **Jerry Parsons**, **Andy Mendes**, **Bruce Small**, **Les Thornton**, **Brad Barrett**, **Steve Harding**, **Joe Pelletier**, **Keith Smith**, **Rodney Littlefield** and **John McCormack**.

The 1995 edition of the "Your Islands on the Coast" brochure providing a general description and map of state-owned islands open to public use and enjoyment has been reprinted.

Pocket-sized guides for the Duck Lake and Scraggly Lake units are also available. The guides describe Public Reserved Lands management, natural resources and recreational facilities. The new guides are part of a series and are similar to those produced by the Bureau of Public Lands for Bigelow Preserve and Dodge Point. These publications are available from the bureau, 73061.

**Bob Marvinney** represented Maine at the annual Association of American State Geologists meeting in July in Reno, Nevada.

A Bureau of Public Lands MCC crew dedicated to wildlife projects will work from Augusta this field season. Crewleader **Joel Flewelling** and Corpsmember **Chris Samuels** are working on a variety of regional assignments including waterfowl brood counts, duck box installation, winter deer habitat improvement and wildlife monitoring.