

7-1-1976

Conservation Newsletter, July 1976

Maine Department of Conservation

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalmaine.com/conservation_newsletters

Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "Conservation Newsletter, July 1976" (1976). *Conservation Newsletters*. 163.
https://digitalmaine.com/conservation_newsletters/163

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry at Digital Maine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Conservation Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Maine. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

M
C1

C72.13:976/7

MAINE STATE LIBRARY



conservation newsletter

4 JULY
1976



The largest aerial spray project in the history of the United States was completed in near record time this year by the Maine Forest Service. Three and one half million acres of northern Maine spruce and fir forests infested with spruce budworm were sprayed with insecticides to protect the trees from the foliage-chewing larvae.

According to Project Director John Chadwick, this year's operation was the largest ever, both in the number of acres sprayed and the number of heavy aircraft used. "I don't expect that we will ever see another one like it. At least I hope that it won't be necessary," John said.

This year's spray project was carried out from three bases. A 25,000 acre helicopter spray program was carried out in Washington County base in Pembroke. Millinocket was the base

for a 959,000 acre program and Presque Isle, serving as headquarters for the entire project, sprayed 2.5 million acres.

The spraying began on May 30th with four Bell helicopters from the Pembroke base. The Millinocket base began operations on June 2nd using twin engine PV2s and single engine TBMs. The major segment of the project got underway in Presque Isle on June 3rd. Aircraft used here were four-engine C54 military surplus cargo planes and four-engine Constellations. The four-engined aircrafts were guided by a Litton inertial guidance system instead of the conventional guide plane and navigator visual system used in the past.

The new electronic system coupled with the large aircraft was in large

continued- pg. 2, col. 1

AUG 9 1976

duaworm (continued)

measure responsible for the efficiency of the operation this year. During one spray period more than a half a million acres were covered, representing an area larger than any other previous spray project, last year excepted. The high caliber of the pilots was also a definite asset.

Deputy Commissioner Temple Bowen, who served as Airport Supervisor at Presque Isle, explained that everyone pitched in and did the necessary extras to get the job done. He was pleased with the fact that everyone knew exactly what they were supposed to do and did it.

"This was my first time directly involved with the spray project so I really can't compare, but it was a new experience for us working with the contractors rather than large numbers of Forest Service personnel. Our role was one of direction, leadership, control, monitoring, etc., with the contractors doing the work. The working relationship between the contractors and the Maine Forest Service was excellent," Temple said.

Excellent was the keyword always used when Forest Service officials mentioned the contractors. Earl Williams, Regional Director of the MFS's Western Region, served as Airport Supervisor at Millinocket. "The general feeling is that we had an excellent contract this year. All the contractor personnel were good people to work with. Our own people performed professionally and to their credit. The monitor operation was the key to this year's success in my opinion," Earl said.

The monitor operation was composed of two Maine Forest Service employees who were in the air throughout the spraying operation to determine whether or not the insecticide was being applied according to the contract. Ranger Pilot Harold Jones of Southern Region and Ranger Pilot Scot Bates of Northern Region served at Presque Isle and Millinocket respectively.

Temple Bowen commented that the use of Forest Service personnel in the air to monitor the operation was so effective that "I think we should consider expanding this in the future. Possibly we should have a monitor in the air with each spray team riding in the trailing aircraft. Our monitors did an excellent job this year, but it was impossible for them to keep a close enough watch on all the spray teams due to the distances between the blocks being sprayed."

He also indicated that the techniques used in Presque Isle, that is, large aircraft with electronic guidance, demand that a new look be taken at monitoring operations in the future. Monitoring under these conditions is an entirely different situation.

"Another benefit this year was an excellent opportunity to compare and contrast the effectiveness of the old and new guidance systems. Millinocket used the spotter plane system that we have always used, while Presque Isle used the Litton inertial guidance system. Even though it was new, the Litton system worked well except for a few maintenance problems and a couple of human errors. Litton had spares and maintenance people there and we weren't held up appreciably," Temple said.

Two chemicals were used this year. Sevin-4 Oil was used for the bulk of the project, with Dylox used in Washington County and certain other areas where it was important to ensure that pollinators were not affected.

Spray operations were concluded at the Pembroke base on June 4th and at Millinocket on June 13th, with a final project windup at Presque Isle on June 14th. Maine Forest Service officials expressed satisfaction on a job well done.

"The results of this year's spray are currently being assessed by the field entomologists. The post-spray evaluation will not be available until late July, however, spot

checks have shown that the spray application has resulted in extensive population reductions and foliage protection," Chadwick said.

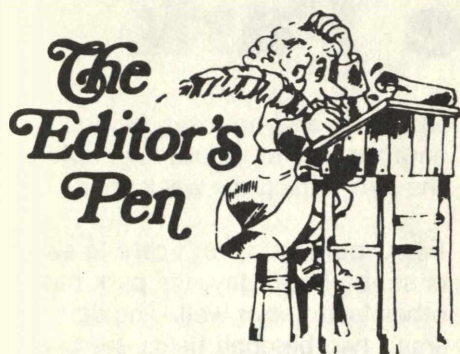
Earl Williams recently toured his region and reports that it is his impression that the number of pupal cases in the sprayed areas is down and that moth flights are not heavy. This is an indication of good mortality from the spray.

"I flew the region a short time ago and there is a definite difference between sprayed and unsprayed areas. There is serious browning in some of the more southern areas that were not sprayed this year. It looks like we saved most of the wood in the sprayed area as it is still green," Earl stated.

Asked what problems he encountered during the project, Chadwick said "None other than putting together the whole package. Developing contracts for 22 large-payload aircraft, the mixing and dispensing set-up, the insecticides and maps, manpower, and logistics have been the greatest problems. Having all these elements happen and come together when the insect was ready involved tireless effort of many people, both state and industry. Thankfully the paper industry financed the set-up, chemical and aircraft contracts. The state then assumed the contracts as money from the federal government became available. Since federal funds were not received until completion of the project we would not have been in business without the industry advance funding."

One unforeseen difficulty was the outbreak of a small forest fire in one of the spray blocks. According to Temple Bowen this presented some difficulties. "We had first to modify our weather reporting procedures since we had been using Channel 2 for that and of course, once the fire broke out, Northern Region shifted to Channel 2 for the fire traffic. The next thing we did

continued- pg. 7, col. 1



A "house ad" in newspaper parlance is a plug for the newspaper that is commonly used to fill advertising space that was not sold. House ads are generally considered bad form and reflect adversely on the advertising department.

In a sense, this is a house ad, but we feel a necessary one. Our newsletter has a policy of not using by-lines unless they are integral to the impact of an article. Since our staff is normally limited and known to all, we decided that credit was not necessary. However, we have several contributors to this issue who deserve mention.

Forest Ranger Margo Busque of the MFS Western Region provided us with cover art. Margo was a member of the Budworm Project staff at Millinocket. Peggy Giachetti, an intern in I & E, did the artwork that accompanies the Sebago Lake State Park story, as well as contributing some of the written material in this issue.

Journalist intern, Dave Dubord researched and wrote a lion's share of the issue. The feature on Sebago Lake State Park is his, as are many other stories.

The final judgement is yours, but we feel congratulations are in order for all the young people throughout the department, in SWEAP and other summer programs, who are giving us a much needed dose of enthusiasm, talent and assistance.

Public Lands Adds Staff

The filling of two vacant positions has brought some fresh faces to the Bureau of Public Lands this month.

John Jones, a former management consultant and operations director, is the new planning associate, and Robin Smith, a former Service Forester in Piscataquis County, will serve as Forester in the Bureau.

The Bureau has assigned new functions to the vacant posts to create, in effect, two completely new positions designed to help the department function more effectively. In their new positions, both men will be responsible for providing management advice on Maine's public lands. John will focus on non-forest uses of public land, such as recreational, agricultural, and wildlife uses. Robin, as Forester, will develop forest management plans for public land, including Maine State Parks of 100 acres or more.

John attended the University of Michigan, and graduated from the University of Buffalo Law School in 1959. He has had extensive management experience as an operations director for a multinational corporation, a management consultant, and manager of a service organization. He lives in Mt. Vernon with his wife and six children.

Robin graduated from the University of Maine in 1971 with a Bachelor's degree in Forest Management. Prior to his appointment, he spent 5 years as a Service Forester in the Bureau of Forestry. A resident of Sangerville, Robin plans to move to Augusta with his wife and two children.

Todd Honored

Fred Todd, supervisor of the Planning Division of the Land Use Regulation Commission has been awarded a Distinguished Service Award for his work and contributions to the Land Use Regulation Commission. His selection was based on a recommendation from the Department of Conservation.

As Fred was involved with public hearings in Fort Kent and Caribou on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which he has supervised the drafting of over the past two years, he was unable to attend a Governor's luncheon at the Blaine House for the presentation of the awards.

McMullen Wins Skeet Awards

Jim McMullen, Forest Insect Ranger in Forestry's Southern Region, distinguished himself recently at the US Open Skeet Shooting Championships held at Lordship, Connecticut.

Shooting with Russ Longley of Waterville, the two man team took first place in group three competition. In individual competition, Jim placed fourth in class B competition, breaking a total of 470 out of 500 skeet.

EPA Award To Wiebe Kin

Jennifer Wiebe received highest honors recently in the Environmental Protection Agency's Region I Environmental Education Program. Senator William Hathaway made the presentation. Ten Maine youngsters were selected for highest honors in the program from 5,000 entries in the six state region. Jennifer is in the fourth grade of Readfield School and is the daughter of Marshall Wiebe of Parks and Recreation.

The U.S. Forest Service predicts that by the year 2050 the last acres of wilderness will be set aside and man-made islands will exist solely for recreation.

Sebago Lake State Park

Every year, hundreds of thousands of vacationers swarm to camp, swim, or just soak up the sun at Sebago Lake State Park. In fact, with each passing year, the number of people who visit the park continues to grow and grow.

Take a leisurely and enjoyable walk through the park's camping area, and you will find vacationers from as far away as Ohio and California, or from as near as down the street. Some of the people camping in the park have returned there for the past 15 or 20 years, while others are camping out for their first time. The diversity of the people visiting the park matches the diversity of the park itself, and it is that diversity which is the key to understanding the popularity of Sebago Lake State Park.

The Sebago Lake area has a beauty all its own. Many of the small towns which border the lake region are quaint, and filled with a handful of permanent residents quite eager to serve the passing vacationer. Summertime is a busy, exciting time in this region, as tourists flood the area to enjoy some of Maine's unique recreational opportunities.

Sebago Lake State Park is correspondingly busy during the summer months. The nearly 250,000 vacationers who visit the park annually make it the most visited park in the state, while its 1,337 acres make it the fourth largest of the State Parks.

In order to facilitate the management of such a large and well-used State park, the park has been divided into two sections. Each section, the day use area and the camping area, has its own manager and crew. In between these two sections runs the winding Songo River, with its famous lock, which is state operated.

The day use area of the State Park is designed primarily for swimming and picnicking, and is used mostly by local residents or vacationers camping in the vicinity. The long, sandy beach is well patrolled by the park rangers, who enforce the few rules necessary for public safety. The beach is also staffed with lifeguards who vigilantly watch over the well-marked swimming area. Phil Mayo, manager of the day use area, estimates that an average 5,000 people a day use the area on

weekends and holidays, while another several thousand people use the area during the week.

For people who don't care to swim or sunbathe all day, the park has other facilities as well. The day area's two baseball fields, seesaws, and swings keep the younger visitors occupied, while the boat launch on the Songo River provides the older visitors with a chance to fish or take a pleasant boatripe. People preferring to be more isolated from the larger crowds can enjoy the isolated beaches of New Place and Cub Coves.

Although the area is primarily a day use area, there is some restricted camping also. A special group camping area has been set aside for groups who canoe down the Songo River and arrange to stay overnight. New Place Cove and Cub Cove are also used as group camping areas, and are complete with Adirondack shelters which were built, interestingly enough, by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Depression.

The camping area of the State Park, under the management of Tom Skolfield, has 287 campsites which are in constant demand throughout the summer. Tom estimates that when the sites are filled, which is nearly every night, there are 1,200 people staying in the area.

Despite such a large demand for campsites, visitors usually have little trouble getting into the park thanks to their unique 'roll call' system. Under this system, all campers sign up on the call list upon arrival at the park, if no spots are immediately open. All campers are asked to be out of the park by noon on the day they plan to leave. Then, at one o'clock, the desk officer calls the names of those people who have signed up on the call list.



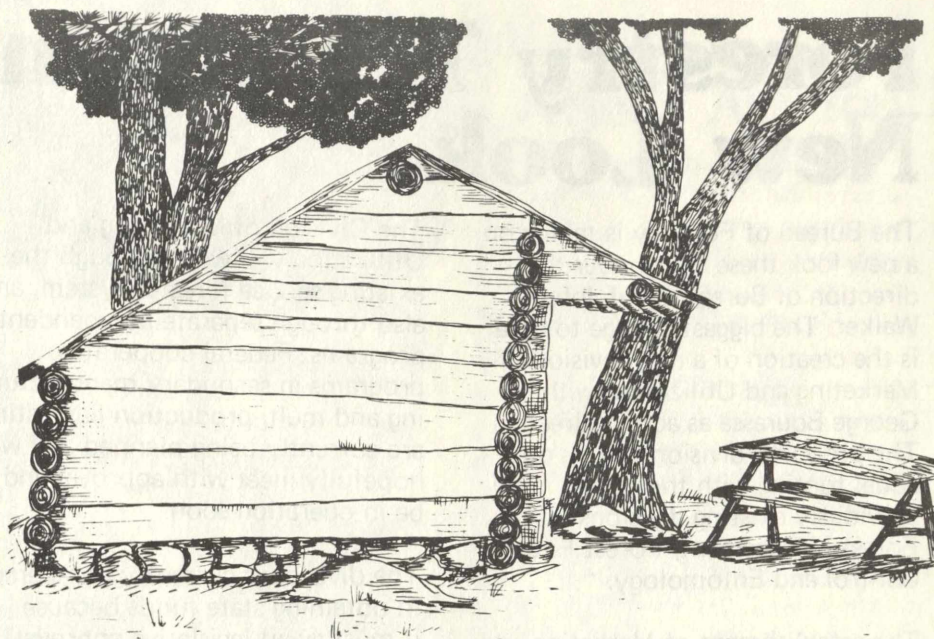
Those people who are present when their name is called have their choice of sites out of those that are available. Herb Dobbins, the desk ranger at Sebago who handles this system, commented that "People rarely have to wait more than two days for a campsite. Most of them get in on the first day." People are generally pleased with the system, since it eliminates waiting around all day for a campsite. No reservations are accepted at the park, and campers have a two-week limit for the summer.

With so many people camping in the area, some type of security system is necessary, and Sebago Lake State Park has developed a good one. Campers entering the park for the first time receive a pass, which they must show at the desk each time they enter the park.

Visitors also must register at the desk, whether they are day or overnight visitors, and they also receive a pass. The gate closes at midnight, re-opens at 1 and 2 a.m. for late arrivals, and then stays closed until 6 a.m. There is always someone on duty to patrol at the park's camping section, and access to a ranger is always easy.

Campers who wish to do more than just sit down and relax will find plenty to do at the park. Each section of the camping area has its own beach, staffed by a lifeguard; each section also has its own boat-launching area, volleyball court, and horse-shoe pits.

The park is also a haven for nature lovers. The tree-lined roads through the park provide an excellent stroll for the leisurely walker, while the real outdoor lover can enjoy a walk to a beaver hut or a set of beautiful brooks down either of the two well-groomed paths. Sebago Lake's land locked salmon provide excellent fishing, and the eleven mile long lake occupies many a boater for hours on end.



Besides being free to do a host of things on their own, there are organized activities at the park for campers to enjoy as well. Dennis Brown, the park's interpretive ranger, is in charge of organizing and scheduling activities for park campers. Working in conjunction with local businessmen, he has organized weekly horseback rides, mountain trips, and boat rides on the Songo River Queen, all at reduced rates for campers.

Saturday night is feature movie night in the park's beautiful amphitheater, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays the amphitheater hosts presentations focusing on the State of Maine. Swimming lessons are offered at the park, and Dennis himself conducts nature walks and nature lessons for everyone.

The Songo Lock, a part of the State Park, is visited and enjoyed by thousands each year. On a busy day, over 250 boats pass through the lock, which is the last in the world to be manually operated. The lock connects Long Lake and Brandy Pond to the Songo River and Sebago Lake, opening up a total of 30 miles of waterway.

There are bound to be some problems encountered in running such a large and multi-faceted park,

but at Sebago there are surprisingly few. The two biggest problems in the day area are, according to Phil, vandalism and litter. In the camping area, there are just a few minor problems, such as late night noise and an occasional speeding car. But the alert and adept park rangers do an excellent job of keeping things under control.

People who visit the park fall in love with it and return year after year after year. They don't see any major problems with the park, though they do note the closeness of the campsites in the park's camping area, and sometimes wonder how people can live in such close proximity. But campers are a friendly breed, and nobody seems to mind being so close.

All in all, it is well worth a trip to Sebago Lake State Park, no matter what you like to do. While you're there, be sure and talk to a ranger; they're very friendly and always ready to help. So pack a lunch, grab a blanket, hop in the old jalopy, and head out to Sebago Lake State Park on the next nice day. But get there early, because you won't be the only one!

Forestry Takes On New Look

The Bureau of Forestry is taking on a new look these days under the direction of Bureau Chief John Walker. The biggest change to date is the creation of a new division of Marketing and Utilization with George Bourassa as acting director. The proposed division will be on equal footing with the three previously existing divisions of Forest Management, Forest Fire Control and Entomology.

The establishment of Marketing and Utilization as a separate division from Cooperative Management has been favored by many people for a long time. John Walker cited the need for such a change, saying "The new division is necessary in order to be able to open up new markets, expand federal cooperative programs, and allow George to use his experience and ideas more independently." Bob Umberger, assistant to the director, also expressed the need for the establishment of such a department, adding, "We think the establishment of Marketing and Utilization as a separate division is just great."

The purpose of the division is to aid Maine woodland owners in marketing wood products, as well as to ensure the full use of Maine forest resources. The division will help small landowners who don't know quite how to market their wood, and also provide technical assistance to larger landowners with already established markets.

According to George Bourassa, the division will place more emphasis upon secondary wood production, which involves finished wood products. Additional secondary wood production in Maine would serve to increase jobs in the state, increase the value of wood as a resource, and promote the economy.

The Division of Marketing and Utilization will work through the existing service forester system, and also through separate independent programs. Federal cooperative programs in secondary manufacturing and multi-production harvesting are currently being planned and will hopefully meet with approval and be in operation soon.

The division is currently hampered in obtaining state funds because it must await legislative approval before becoming an official division of Forestry.

Despite a shortage of funds at the moment, the division is quite active. It provides Maine taxpayers with price lists, informational research, technical advice, supervises the Annual Timbercut survey, publishes a marketing bulletin, and much more. George is hopeful that increased funding will come soon enabling his department to expand its activities.

One of the big advantages that accompanies the establishment of Marketing and Utilization as a separate division is the opportunity it provides the Bureau of Forestry to take full advantage of George's expertise and experience. He has been with the Forestry Bureau for two years, having worked for Georgia-Pacific prior to his arrival here. He has also worked for Timberlake, a wood-harvesting machine company, and has studied forestry at the University of Maine.

Elsewhere in the department, Walt Gooley has been promoted to the position of Director of the Division of Forest Management. Walt had been serving as acting director.

Walt has worked as assistant director of Information and Education in Forestry, and served as director of that office when the Department of Conservation was

formed in 1973. He also had prior Forest Service experience in several other states, and studied at the University of Connecticut in 1957, and also at the University of Maine.

To date, there have been no apparent problems with the re-organization of Forestry. According to Bob Umberger, good communications has been the key to the facility with which the department has re-organized. Director Walker has a few other changes in mind for the department, and hopes that they can be affected in the near future. The Division of Forest Fire Control and the Division of Entomology are unchanged and continue to do a fine job.

LITTER

While out posting signs not too long ago, Forest Ranger Bruce Small of the Parlin Pond District noticed someone littering the landscape, and decided to investigate. The offender, when confronted by Bruce, admitted to having thrown a beer can out the window of his car. What the litterer probably shouldn't have admitted, however, is his employment with the State of Maine Bureau of Alcoholism. It just goes to show, you never know who's on the other side of the litter.



Budworm (continued)

was to replace the tanks on the amphibious Beaver which was assigned to the spray operation and dispatch Harold Jones, our monitor pilot, to the scene to assist with the water drops. The only other effect was that the fire was in an area that was to be sprayed that day so that we had to shift the spray block scheduling," Temple explained.

"For the first time this year, special consideration was given to owners of smaller woodlands. We were able to allow them to apply for inclusion in the spray project. Once our field personnel has determined that the infestation level of their lands was sufficient to warrant spraying, we included them. They paid the cost of spraying less the 50 percent which was paid by the Federal Government. This increased our coordination problems, but we are pleased that we were at least able to offer this service," Chadwick told us.

The spraying of small woodlots involved the Service Foresters extensively in the project this year. "In fact, they ran the small woodlot operation," Temple said.

Asked for a general assessment of what the future holds, Chadwick responded, "The current budworm population indicates some stress, due probably to a combination of this year's cold, wet weather after the larvae had emerged, and reduction in population levels, probably from last year's spray. We are seeing smaller larvae and mortality from parasites and viruses. However, residual populations in non-spray areas and potential inflights of moths from Canada could necessitate spraying next year."



FIM Appointed

A former assistant professor at Yale's School of Forestry and Environment Studies has been appointed Forest Insect Manager (FIM) in the Bureau of Forestry.

Dr. Lloyd Irland, the new Forest Insect Manager, joined us the 6th of July upon completion of his duties as Assistant Professor of Forest Economics at Yale.

The position of Forest Insect Manager was created by the Spruce Budworm Suppression Act passed in April of this year. The act directs the FIM to be responsible for "the development, coordination and implementation of policies and programs" in order to control and suppress the spruce budworm epidemic.

Lloyd will seek to develop an integrated approach to budworm control, using both spraying and silviculture to minimize the economic losses due to the budworm.

He received his Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1967, and a year later received his Masters degree from the University of Arizona. After serving in the Army, he earned his PhD from Yale in 1973.

Prior to his appointment as Assistant Professor at Yale, Lloyd worked for the U.S. Forest Service as an economic analyst. He has also worked as a research economist for the Chicago Board of Trade, and has been a research assistant and associate economist at the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans.

Car L-1, Where Are You?!?

What do you do when you are traveling in northern Maine for a series of public hearings and all of a sudden realize that you have been left alone, stranded, with no immediate means of rescue?

Lewis Allen of the LURC Development Review Staff faced just that situation when traveling with Tom Radsky, Fred Todd and Brian Kent from Greenville to Rangeley to wind up a series of nine Comprehensive Land Use Plan hearings the end of June. After the foursome had stopped for lunch in Monson, Lew disappeared from sight, and the driver, Tom Radsky, assumed he had gotten into another one of the cars, so he drove away from the restaurant headed towards Rangeley for the last hearing.

A short while later, the Augusta office received a frantic call from Lew asking for assistance from the Forestry radio room to contact the LURC car and ask Tom to return to the restaurant and rescue him. Needless to say, a radio message of this nature can spark a lot of interest from other radio operators in the area, and word traveled quickly that the LURC "had lost its man."

Tom circled back to retrieve his lost passenger, and all arrived at Rangeley in time for the hearing, but the losee, Lew, and the losor, Tom, have taken a lot of kidding about that episode, in fact, both were awarded Certificates of Appreciation from their fellow employees. Lew's certificate was awarded for his ability "to remain cool, calm and collected while alone and stranded in the deep, dark interior of the wildlands of Maine." Tom's award was for the "dramatic rescue of one Lewis Perrody Allen who was stranded and alone in the wildlands of Maine while serving in the line of duty."

Coastal Zone Study Conducted By Geology

Skyler Ludwig of the Bureau of Geology is a very busy man these days. He is conducting a study of drinking water sources along the entire Coastal Zone, which extends all the way from Kittery to Eastport.

The study is designed to examine and identify problems with potable water along the coast before the problems become critical. Coastal residents searching for drinking water often run into problems like saltwater infiltration, high iron content, water shortages, and others. Brad Caswell, the Bureau's hydrogeologist, termed the survey a "qualitative" one, important for "determining the coastal water supply 10 years from now."

The final report of the six month project, which began on June 1st, will contain a map of the Coastal Zone, showing the problems, shortages, and sources of potable water in the area. The town by town report will be helpful to towns searching for possible municipal water supplies which will be adequate for long-run needs.

PENNANT FEVER

The Department of Conservation's coed softball team is making a strong bid for the Bureaucrats League pennant this year. With only one loss in six outings so far this year, the team is determined to take first place, or at least have a good time trying.

Charlie Atwater, who helps organize the games, explained that the team's major emphasis is that everyone have a good time. He added that "Anyone in the DOC interested in playing on the team is more than welcome."

The DOC team plays teams from other state agencies, such as the Attorney General's office, Taxation, State Planning, the Motor Vehicle Department and others.

Most of the games are scheduled for Monday nights, with an occasional Thursday night game added on. The games begin at 5:30 p.m. and are played at the ballfield at Hodgkins School.

Anyone desiring further information, or wishing to join the team should contact either Charlie Atwater or Charlie Anderson in the Bureau of Administration.

AMHI Cites DOC

The Department of Conservation was given a Certificate of Appreciation at the end of this fiscal year by the volunteer office at AMHI. The Certificate was given for money collected by the Department of Conservation and donated to AMHI residents who have no spending money.

Mrs. Louise Page of Parks and Recreation has placed collection boxes in Forestry, Public Lands, and Parks and Recreation for those who wish to donate money. Mrs. Page collects the money at weekly intervals to be sent to the volunteer office at AMHI. The collections have been taken since Christmas, 1975.

CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

State of Maine
Department of Conservation

James B. Longley,
Governor

Richard E. Barringer,
Commissioner

John W. Gardner,
Editor

EDITORIAL BOARD
Brad Caswell,
Geology

Public Lands
Walt Gooley, Forestry
Dalt Kirk,
Parks & Recreation
Gloria LeVasseur,
LURC

CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER is published bi-monthly by the Maine Department of Conservation for employees of the Department and those concerned with its activities. Views of contributors do not necessarily reflect the policy of the department, agency, or administration and are invited for consideration. Editorial offices are in the Ray Building, Hospital Street, Augusta, Maine 04333 (tel 289-3861).

conservation
newsletter

State of Maine
Department of
Conservation
Ray Building
Augusta, Maine

c/o Editor
Jack Gardner

Address
Correction
Requested