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# What's Up, Doc? August 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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# What's Up, DOC?



Issue 8

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

August 1996

## Commissioner's Column

Experiencing summertime stress? There seems to be more to do than there is time in which to do it, but I found a great stress reliever that I'd like to share with you. I take every opportunity to get out of Augusta or "get out of Dodge" as the saying goes, and visit our state parks and public lands.

I spent July 4th weekend at Peaks-Kenny with Bill Elliot and the team. The park was immaculate - and what a view of Boarstone Mountain from the beach.

Last weekend I tried to duck Hurricane Bertha while visiting Cobscook Bay with Stuart Wagner, but Bertha won...did we get wet! Regardless of the weather, I enjoyed meeting the staff and was thrilled to see a Loon plate sign heralding the maintenance work completed with the use of Loon plate money. This is a great way to keep the public informed of the ongoing work accomplished because of their contributions. I owe Cobscook, and my family, a return visit in the near future.

And speaking of informing the public, have you seen the new Department of Conservation brochure, "Outdoors in Maine"?

My congratulations to Cindy Bastey, Anne Bills, Nancy Dodge, Herb Hartman, Sheila McDonald, Tom Morrison, Scott Ramsay, Steve Spencer,

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## COMMUNICATIONS UPLINK: Subscribe to the Newsletter

-Susan Benson

I'm making several changes in the communications arena and want your feedback.

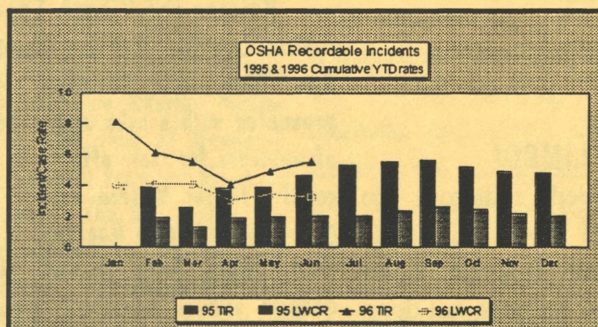
**NUMBER ONE:** Highlights are being distributed via e:mail every Friday afternoon. You should receive information from your bureau director regarding distribution; basically, if your staff does not have access to e:mail, it is your responsibility to post Highlights on a common bulletin board or mail them if that is your internal distribution protocol. If you are not receiving Highlights weekly, contact me at: #287-4909 or e:mail me: Susan Benson at DOC with that information.

**NUMBER TWO:** All SEASONAL PARK EMPLOYEES will receive the newsletter year round. (That is if you desire it.) Please fill out the address form on Page 4.

**NUMBER THREE:** Subscribe to the newsletter on e:mail or by US mail. See Page 4.

**NUMBER FOUR:** If you are reading this newsletter, I encourage you to fill out the CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY which is on Page 4 of this newsletter. This way I can better provide you with news you need.

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## SAFETY IN THE FIELD

- Tim Hall

Jay McIntosh, Manager of Damariscotta Lake State Park, has trained and certified more than 50 staff members in First Aid this season, part of the Bureau's goal to train all field staff in First Aid and CPR. Kim Lynch, an Allagash Park Ranger has trained staff in specialized wilderness first aid and whitewater rescue. Other instructors, including Frank Appleby, Russ Scott and Mike Wilusz, are also busy providing staff with skills to help fellow employees and visitors in the event of accidents or illness.

## JUNE'S SAFETY REPORT

-Ellen Blair

According to June's safety report, the Department of Conservation incurred three OSHA reportable injuries this month. One of these injuries resulted in lost time. The above graph shows us that by comparing incident rates of cumulative year to date figures between 1995 and 1996, DOC has gone from a total incident rate (TIR) of 4.6 in 1995 to one of 5.5 in 1996; a lost workday case rate (LWCR) of 2.0 in 1995 to 3.3 in 1996. ♦



## Commissioner's Column (cont.)

Ruth Willette, and all the park managers and regional park managers who worked together to create, review and edit this comprehensive brochure. "Outdoors in Maine" is chock full of information about parks, lands, historic sites and boat launch facilities, plus our DOC Internet address and a little bit on each organization in the DOC. I can't say enough about this outstanding brochure.

Finally, while recently shopping at L.L. Bean, I was told by the salesman that Steve Curtis just bought a bicycle to ride with his daughter. Steve's got the right idea! Let's all catch the spirit and break the stress load by enjoying "outdoors in Maine."

Ron Lovaglio

### LET'S LIMBO!

Employees dodged raindrops to celebrate the 2nd ANNUAL DOC PICNIC on Friday, July 19. Over 60 people enjoyed burgers, hot dogs and scrumptious potato salad. Lucky winners received door prizes ranging from lottery tickets to a Smokey the Bear hand puppet.

Peter Lammert, a.k.a. the Grilling Gourmet, was a real life saver! Equipped with a tarp and a large barrel-like grill, Peter expertly flipped burgers and dogs providing plenty of food for all to enjoy. A hearty "Thanks" to the people who pulled this celebration together: Carol DiBello, Jim Jacobsen, Gale Ross and Tom Weddle.

Gale Ross is happy to report that there is \$25 for next year's bash. Anyone who would like to send comments, please e:mail or call Gale at 7.4900. ❖

## PARKS and LANDS:

### Northern Region

-Tim Hall

#### "Where's Amy?"

She's on NewsChannel 13, and airs a regular segment on that station's news program showing her travels around the state. Recently Reporter Amy Sinclair visited the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, where she interviewed, among others, Assistant Ranger Shane Crommett.

#### Lights, Action, Allagash!

Ursus Productions recently completed filming documentary videos on the Allagash experience and the Churchill Dam replacement proposal for November's ballot. Thanks go to Tim Caverly and his staff for assistance with the production.

#### Putting the Pieces Together

Mike Leighton, Ron Cyr, Jarvis Johnson, Don King and Charlene Hood were presented with a cake and a hearty round of applause for their efforts in completing repairs to the Warren Island State Park pier. According to Regional Manager Tim Hall, these folks worked tirelessly - despite several logistical problems - to reestablish access to the island earlier this month. Sections of the pier were destroyed during a winter storm.

### WOOOOOOAH!

Lots of rain means plenty of water in the West Branch of the Penobscot River, and that can make whitewater rafting trips both exciting and potentially dangerous.

According to PRC Manager Matt LaRoche, rafting companies are holding regular safety meetings to discuss the river's strength and flow patterns, which tend to change somewhat during these high water conditions. ❖

## PARKS and LANDS

### Southern Region

-Steve Curtis

#### Sebago Lake Meeting Site

A regional meeting was held at Sebago Lake State Park on Tuesday, July 9. Several concerns were brought up by park managers, including various incidents of vandalism at Sebago, Fort McClary, Grafton Notch, Peacock Beach, Ferry Beach and Two Lights. Although on a park by park basis the costs are not high, collectively it is getting expensive and it is annoying and takes staff time to repair and replace damaged facilities. In addition, region staff received training on Lyme disease from staff at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute, and Susan Benson talked to the group about her role as Director of Information and Education for the Department.

#### Bill Green cuts a Park PSA

Gloria Allen, Patty Bailey, Andy Hutchinson and Susan Benson taped a public service announcement at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park on Wednesday, July 10. WCSH-TV's sports reporter Bill Green starred in the PSA that will promote park use and maintenance; the PSA is scheduled to air in August. Be sure to tune in to 6 Alive!

#### Maintenance Inspections

Ron Hunt and Doug Tyler have been on the road meeting with park managers and maintenance mechanics to conduct maintenance inspections.

Thus far, inspections have been completed at Grafton, Reid, Rangeley, Popham, Fort Popham, Colonial Pemaquid, Fort Edgecomb, Eagle Island, Mount Blue, Sebago, Two Lights, Crescent Beach, Fort McClary, Range Pond, Ferry Beach and Bradbury Mountain.

DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT THE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY  
AND MAILING ADDRESS INFORMATION ON PAGE 4



## Fort Point Historic Site News

-Terry Cole

Five Searsport high school seniors worked throughout the school year to research, design and build new interpretive displays at the park. The first phase of the project was completed in May. Summer youth workers are putting the finishing touches on it this summer. The display, which features the historical aspects of the park, is housed in the bell tower visited by over 5,000 people throughout the year.

Built in 1890, the bell tower housed the machinery, weights and hammer that struck the bell during time of fog. Listed on the National Historic Register, the tower is one of the few remaining of its kind.

## Sea Kayak at Popham

Popham Beach staff purchased a rescue sea kayak for the lifeguard staff with a donation received when People's Bank filmed a commercial at the park last month. Lifeguards are now training in the use of seas kayaks and sea kayak rescue.



## MAINE FOREST SERVICE NEWS

### The Other Side of the Looking Glass

- Jim Downie

Rangers from southern Maine have been temporarily reassigned to the Daaquam area in an effort to meet division needs. "This (over-manning) provides us with an excellent opportunity to acclimate our rangers to the duties and responsibilities of their counter-parts in remote areas of Maine," remarked Regional Ranger Andy Mendes. "This type of exposure ultimately gives all our rangers a greater appreciation for what their counter-parts do in other areas of our state." The reassignment lasts for one week and feedback from all rangers participating has been extremely positive. "The opportunity to assist with operations in this section of Maine was most rewarding. I look forward to working with rangers from other areas when the need arises," said ranger Mark Mayhew of Cornish.

## MAINE FOREST SERVICE NEWS:

### "Breaking New Ground"

- Tom Parent

The US Forest Service on behalf of the 20 northeastern states presented the State of Maine's Fire Control Division with the **BREAKING NEW GROUND** award recognizing superior leadership in the area concerning incident management teams, mobile radio communications and developing the fire equipment purchasing plan for local fire departments.

Tom Parent accepted the award on June 26 in Springfield, Missouri, at the Northeastern Fire Fighting Supervisor's meeting. **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRE CONTROL DIVISION!**

### Missouri Teachers Tour Woodlots

-Kathy Nitschke

On Monday, June 24, Maine Forest Service District Forester Geneva Duncan and LURC representative Charles Corliss presented a talk and tour of Downeast woodlots to 30 teachers from the Missouri Geographic Alliance. The talk focused on Maine forest management strategies and environmental issues. The teachers on the tour were elementary, high school, and college faculty interested in environmental issues. The highlight of the tour was a visit to Ms. Duncan's Tree Farm in Aurora.

### Who's Minding the Store?

Effective Monday, July 15, the storekeeping operations of the Department of Conservation, IF&W and Marine Resources have been combined at Bolton Hill. Staffing will be provided by IF&W.

We hope to add Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Protection by next year. Harry Doughty and Andy Mendes were instrumental in working this out, and by combining resources we should stream-line storekeeping efforts.



## LURC NEWS:

LURC has had success implementing their regional system where Permitting and Enforcement people work as a team out of regional offices in Ashland Millinocket, Jonesboro, Rangeley, and Greenville. That's more people serving the jurisdiction from points closer to people in the jurisdiction. LURC has done a fantastic job keeping up with the summer permit load. The permitting team deserves special recognition.

## KUDOS CORNER

Tim Thurston and Crew:

### The Buoying Project

Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association President Marilyn Speckmann writes:

"We applaud the work done by Tim Thurston. This buoying will go far to inform boating operators of hazards and slow zones, thereby making the lake a safer place for all. We appreciate the efforts of Tim and his crew."

Pat Bailey and Andy Hutchinson

### Interdepartment Rabies

### Work Group-Press Conference

Department of Human Services Commissioner Kevin Concannon writes:

"Pat Bailey ... has been an important part of the RWG since its inception. She was a great help to my staff in organizing and doing the background work for the press conference.

"Andy Hutchinson ... went beyond the call of duty in his work preparing the site, guiding reporters through the park and helping my staff to execute the event rain or shine."



### Good-bye, Ellen

Ellen Blair has accepted a position as the new Human Resource Specialist at Motivational Services, Inc., a mental health agency in the Augusta area. Ellen leaves the A.C.E. Service Center to venture into new pastures outside of state government.

Ellen has been a valuable asset to the Department, and more recently to the A.C.E. Service Center. Her innovative thoughts, ideas, and general overall positive nature were welcomed attributes, and she will be sorely missed. Ellen, remember you always have a home here with us! ❖

**MAIL THE SURVEY, NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIPTION FORM AND  
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ITEMS to:**

Susan Benson  
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22 SHS- Harlow Building  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-4909

e-mail:  
Susan Benson at DOC

Internet:  
susan.benson@state.me.us

A Reminder from the  
Commissioner:

I just came back from L.L. Bean. What a great opportunity our special relationship is with them. Please remember that our discount is for items for your personal use only. L.L. Bean provides this discount to recognize our work and special contributions to the stewardship of all Maine outdoors. It's important that we place our highest values on the purpose of this relationship. ❖

## CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Please fill out this survey and include what you'd like to see in, "What's Up, DOC?" This survey is also being distributed via e-mail. Send the completed form to me by **August 23**.

Please circle your answer and fill in information if appropriate.

Content:

Are you satisfied with the content of the newsletter? Yes or No

If not, please explain what you would like to see:

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What would you like to see in the newsletter?

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Bureau personnel:

Do you feel your bureau is adequately represented in the newsletter? Yes or No If not, please explain:

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Field offices:

If you work in a field or regional office, do you feel that your area is adequately represented? Yes or No

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Field office personnel: would you be willing to submit one or two paragraphs regarding local news?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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### ATTENTION SEASONAL PARK EMPLOYEES AND YEAR ROUND EMPLOYEES: SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you want to continue to receive the newsletter at home, please fill in your address information below. Otherwise, you can receive the newsletter on e-mail each month.

Fill out the following form and mail it to Susan Benson by **August 23, 1996**.

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