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What's Up, Doc? September 1996

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?

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Issue 9

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

September 1996

Commissioner's Column

In August, I traveled with **Bob Marvinney, Tom Weddle, Craig Neil, Mike Foley** and the summer aquifer mapping crew of **Natural Resources** to see what's involved in mapping aquifers. Technically it's called aquifer mapping, but I observed seismic studies that involved exploding a 12-gauge shotgun blast into the ground and letting the sound carry to a very sensitive, electronic gadget called a 12-channel seismograph.

The crew also showed me the low-budget, low-tech method: using a geophone, a sensor plugged into the ground, you bang a steel plate with a sledge hammer and record the sound wave on a single channel seismograph. Because this is done roadside, the sound is similar to a chain gang breaking rocks.

We then visited an example of a sand and gravel aquifer, a glacial outwash delta in the Leeds - Monmouth area. A glacial outwash delta is where a glacial stream flowed into the ocean 12-13,000 years ago. These types of deposits are typical of sand and gravel aquifers in Maine.

After a winter of reducing seismic information, compiling aquifer data and digitizing all this information, the professionals at **Natural Resources, Craig, Mike and Dan Locke** will produce the aquifer map!

(Continued on Page 2)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY

-Susan Benson

Check out what's happening on Monday, September 16:

AUGUSTA: Capitol Park

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:30 - 10:00 am | Registration for Award Winners |
| 10:00 - 11:30 am | Awards Ceremony |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | Run/Walk Race |
| 12:00 - 2:00 pm | Picnic Lunch |
| 12:00 - 2:00 pm | Volleyball, Crafts Displays, Department Displays, and Entertainment |

(Rain date: Wednesday, September 19)

Six Department of Conservation Employees will be recognized.

Attend the 10 am Awards Ceremony and find out who they are!

Employee Recognition Day is Celebrated in the Field

from 12:00pm - 2:00 pm at:

BANGOR (BMHI), CAMDEN HILLS, LAMOINE STATE PARK, PRESQUE ISLE (Arnold Brook Lake), and TWO LIGHTS STATE PARK

The Leaf Peepers Are Here!

- Susan Benson

The falling autumn leaves bring the leaf peepers and the Fall Foliage Report. Each Wednesday morning, **Maine Forest Rangers** will survey their local canvas of trees to report the percentage of leaves that have dropped and any change in color, and report their findings to **Ed Jones** at Bolton Hill.

I, in turn, will predict the exact time and location of peak foliage in seven zones throughout the state. (Yeah right! I'm glad I just got my crystal ball serviced last week).

A few changes are added on this year's report: The report will be on the Internet: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/foliage.htm> and it will be faxed to the three regional offices each Wednesday afternoon.

Look for the report beginning September 18 and ending October 16. My thanks to **Ed** and all the **Maine Forest Rangers**! And to **Marc Loiselle** for his technical expertise in converting the foliage map to htm language.

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

-Deb Phillips

In recent months, the State's New Employee Orientation Training Program was expanded to incorporate into it the Governor's Greeting Program. This expansion to the program affords the Governor an opportunity to meet employees new to State Government.

The Department of Conservation had several employees attend this program in June and July. The June program was held in Bangor; **Susan Cronkhite** from the Old Town Fire Control Office attended this session.

In July, the program was held in Augusta. The following employees were in attendance: **Henry "Spike" Berry** from Geology, **Martha Papp** from Public Lands, **Jeff DeHart** from Boating, **Chad Abbott** from Fire Control, **Sarah White** and **Richard Donaher** from Parks and Lands, Northern Parks Region.

Commissioner's Column

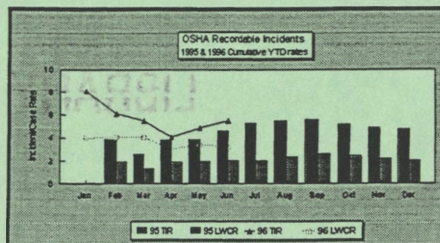
(continued from Page 1)

All in all, it was a class operation and it is invigorating to visit the field and witness the professional work done at DOC. These aquifer maps may some day lead to a new business like the Loon Country Water in Garfield which was started by the owner based upon information from our early aquifer maps.

My thanks to everyone at Natural Resources for a great day!

Ron Lovaglio
Ron Lovaglio

July's Safety Numbers



Compact Update

This article details the public hearings on the Compact for Maine's Forests.

The first hearing was held on Tuesday, August 26, in Lewiston. Approximately 100 people attended the afternoon session including representatives from the media.

The public process works this way: the sponsor of the bill, in this case, Bob Spear, presents it to the members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee and the Natural Resource Committee.

Each side receives a total of 30 minutes to testify, and the first was Governor King who testified in favor of the L.D. 1892 - commonly known as the Compact.

Proponents of the compact include a balance of paper and timber companies and environmental groups; principal opponents of LD 1892 include representatives from the Ban Clearcutting Group, the Green Party and individuals.

Wednesday's hearing was held in Augusta. The original compact participants and those involved in subsequent negotiations supported the bill; however, there was equally strong opposition to the proposal from the Ban Clearcutting supporters and individuals concerned with property rights and

increasing government regulations. The final day of hearing ended in Presque Isle.

This is a unique approach to legislation where so much of the discussion has taken place by many parties before it went to the Legislature. Additionally, most legislation doesn't get the level of discussion and public hearing time, 15 hours in this case, that has taken place with this bill. In fact, it is particularly important to address it now, because waiting will have a continued negative impact on investment. People are not investing right now, they are holding back until they see the outcome.

(Editor's note: this article was written before the special session.)

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following DOC employees!

Judy Andrews	26 years
Dick Arbour	26 years
Brad Barrett	25 years
Betty Barry	29 years
Gordon Bell	25 years
John Cooke	25 years
Everett Cram	30 years
Stephen Day	25 years
Richard Dearborn	30 years
Michael Devine	26 years
Donald Hicks	30 years
John Hinkley	34 years
Robert Hunt	30 years
Larry Hunter	26 years
Rodney Littlefield	25 years
Gary Morse	30 years
John Petros	26 years
Robin Smith	25 years
David Wight	25 years
Myron Witherall	25 years
Scott Woodruff	29 years
Ronald Wright	29 years

August 23, 1996

Commissioner Ronald B. Lovaglio
Department of Conservation
State House Station #22
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Commissioner Lovaglio:

I just want to take some time to thank David Struble and Don Ouellette of your Entomology Unit. Donald & David helped me in identifying various insects that my daughter, Chelsey, had collected for a school project.

To often, I think about thanking a fellow State employee for their assistance and then I never take the time to make that happen.

Donald Ouellette showed me his joy for his job and his passion for Entomology, that was refreshing and contagious. I could see that he takes pride in his knowledge and his career. Don not only identified our insects he gave us some spectacular moths and flies that Chelsey's class will enjoy.

While this is a very difficult time for our State Government when change is occurring rapidly, jobs are not stable, raises seemingly not in the future, there are State employees who still go that extra mile to help those they serve.

Please let them know how much I appreciated not only what they did for us but the positive attitude they had.

Sincerely,

Kim M. Pierce
Kim M. Pierce
Personnel Specialist
Department of Public Safety

GREAT JOB!

John McCormack
18 Lorraine Rd.
Merrimack, NH
03054-4613
(603) 880-3638

16 August 1996

Mr. Ron Lovaglio
Commissioner, Maine Dept. of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME.

04333-0022

Dear Sir,

I recently had the pleasure of leading a group of Boy Scouts on a canoe trip down the Upper West Branch of the Penobscot River, into Lobster Lake and down Chesuncook Lake. While on the river and on Lobster Lake we were in contact with Ranger Barry Welch and completed a service project on Lobster Lake.

We had a safe and most memorable trip. This was due in large part to the efforts of Ranger Welch, an excellent example of a hard working Maine Forest Ranger. Assisted by his wife Sue, they consistently provided the most meticulously maintained campsites that I have ever seen. Their attention to detail and concern for the needs and safety of their 'guests' was evident from the first day we arrived on the Upper West Branch. From the perfectly manicured campsites to the explanation and interpretation of the most current, (and conflicting) weather forecasts, Ranger Welch and his wife provided the little extras which are not required but make the difference between a canoe trip and a most memorable canoe camping experience.

Ranger Welch took the time to discuss the concerns inherent in navigating a rising river should the gates at the dam at Seboomook be opened to accommodate the predicted 4 inches of rain, and also detailed the safest way to approach the bridge at Lobster Trip should there be insufficient headroom and a need to portage. Ranger Welch took the time to educate the boys, providing excellent instruction and guidance as he and Sue worked side by side with us on our service project. Sue even baked us 2-dozen cupcakes for lunch! Our boys came back with wonderful memories of the Maine backwoods and the hospitality of a Maine Forest Ranger and his wife that will last them a lifetime.

Many thanks to you and the people of the State of Maine for providing the very best in hospitality and service on the Upper West Branch and Lobster Lake.

Very Truly Yours,

John J. McCormack, Jr.
John J. McCormack, Jr.
Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 15, BSA

McHugh Tree Farm
P.O. Box 571, Boothby Road
Lumington, ME 04049-0571
207-627-2085

5 August 1996

State of Maine
Department of Conservation
Maine Geological Survey
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Dear Director:

I wanted to tell you what an asset I think your department has in Henry Berry. Mr. Berry stopped by here last Friday to ask permission to go on my land for the purpose of mapping bedrock. He is an extremely cordial and pleasant young man.

I took him up in the woods to show him where I thought there was an outcropping, and later when he came back down, he was very patient and informative in response to our questions about his task and what he had found. It's obvious he is excited and knowledgeable about his work, and it was a pleasure to have him tell us things about this property we would never have otherwise known.

As a participant in the SIP program, I am very pleased to see this quality of personnel in the Maine conservation department.

Sincerely,

Peter F. McHugh, Jr.
Peter F. McHugh, Jr.

Ron:
FYI -
an excellent
reflection on the
Department.
BS

THANK YOU!

COURAGEOUS RESCUE on LOBSTER LAKE

- Tim Hall

On July 27, Barry Welch and his wife Sue were transporting a bench seat to the Little Claw campsite on Lobster Lake, part of Barry's duties as a ranger for the Penobscot River Corridor. Westerly winds had blown up suddenly, and Barry noticed that two men were having difficulty navigating their small boat through the waves on the lake. Sure enough, as Barry watched, the small boat took on waves and was swamped. Barry and Sue moved quickly to the rescue, and pulled the two men aboard their boat to take them to shore.

But the story doesn't stop there. Barry and Sue gave the hapless boaters their jackets to help them keep warm, then retrieved their boat and gear. They then made sure that the victims made it to their destinations, and Barry even came back the next day to help the campers get their drowned outboard motor dried out and started.

Park Ranger Barry Welch and Park Volunteer Sue Welch deserve our thanks and recognition for a job well done.

IN CONCERT

- Tim Hall

As part of their special events series, The Friends of Montpelier produced a program on Sunday entitled "Henry Knox - In Words and Music." The program featured readings from Knox correspondence interspersed with period music performed by the Penobscot Bay Brass Quintet. This is the third performance of the program, which was written by Tim Hall in 1994 with help from Montpelier staff. Tim also played trumpet in the quintet, marking his last performance with the group (his move to Orono prompted his retirement).

WADE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP -Philip Farr

Victoria Wade of Unity College has been awarded the Holbrook Island Sanctuary Internship/Scholarship Award for 1996.

Wade, a senior at Unity College, is studying environmental sciences with an emphasis on wildlife. She was in charge of the walk-talk tour agenda at Holbrook Sanctuary.

Congratulations, Victoria!

PASS THE MUSTARD, PLEASE -Tim Hall

Several Park Management families took some time off to recreate together at a picnic held recently at Swan Lake State Park. In addition to the good food, folks enjoyed volleyball, swimming, horseshoes, and lots of happy conversation. Thanks go to Julie Flanagan, the event's host, and to organizers Sue Leighton and Irene Hall.

April, Welcome to the DOC !

- Judy Andrews

April Breton has come to us from an acting capacity position in the Department of Environmental Protection to an acting capacity Clerk Typist II in General Services. She is filling in during the interim that Denise Pomerleau will be out on maternity leave.

We expect April to be here until the last of May or first of June 1997. April is somewhat familiar with the Department of Conservation's programs. In her former position she was the central receptionist and was used to fielding the calls that DEP received that really belonged to DOC. Now she is on the other side and we we'd like to take this opportunity to wish her a heartfelt welcome!

SAY CHEESE!

-Susan Benson

As a part of the Bangor State Fair, the Eastern Maine Photography Club organizes a photography competition for which one can actually win money.

There are 9 categories... People, Flowers, Animals, Children, Scenic, Maine, Nature, Experimental, Open and a color and a B&W division for each of them. Ultimately, one person could enter 18 photos. This year they had nearly 600 photos entered.

John Poisson entered 11 photos and won with 8 of them. He received 4 first place prizes and 4 second place prizes. Poisson placed first in People-color, Animals-b&w, Flowers-color and Flowers-b&w; finished 2nd in Experimental-color, Experimental-b&w, People-b&w, and the "Open"-b&w category. Congratulations, John!

Send your submissions to
October's newsletter by Friday,
September 20 to:

Susan Benson

Department of Conservation
22 SHS - Harlow Building
Augusta, ME 04333
#287-4909

susan.benson@state.me.us