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# What's Up, Doc? March 1997

Maine Department of Conservation

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# What's Up, DOC?



Issue 3

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

March 1997

## Commissioner's Column

We're getting close to spring and I can already feel DOC organizations thinking and planning ahead.

The Loon Plate funds and the winning parks bond issue are providing an extraordinary opportunity to make the improvements that Parks employees have advocated for for years. Both Parks & Lands and the Maine Forest Service have an ambitious program of repair and construction that will test our capabilities to implement.

The legislature is in session and that keeps many Augusta personnel very busy. The legislature has been very supportive of DOC, especially the ACF Committee chaired by Sen. Marge Kilkelly and Rep. George Bunker, and the Appropriations Committee chaired by Sen. Mike Michaud and Rep. George Kerr.

We have an excellent relationship with all the members of both committees thanks to the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Shippen Bright who works extra hard to make sure the department is a credible witness before the committees.

Keep up the great work!

### DOC Anniversaries

25 Years:

Jeannine Plourde  
Bonita Michaud

30 Years:

Betty Barry

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### Let's Go Camping....

Springtime in Maine can only mean two things: mud season and the Annual Sportsman's Shows. Plans are well under way by the Sportsman's Show committee headed by Chair Tom Cieslinski who is coordinating this extravaganza for the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

#### Mark your calendars:

Orono's show: UMaine Field House

March 14 - 16

Fri: 5-9pm, Sat: 9am-9pm, Sun: 10am-5pm

Augusta's show: Augusta Civic Center

March 28 - 30

Fri: 4-10pm, Sat: 9am-9pm, Sun: 9am-5pm

Our exhibit promotes programs and services DOC offers sporting men and women. Anne Bills and Susan Benson are creating a computer-general slide show to visually walk show attendees through the department.

Joe Wiley will donate two wood duck boxes which will be raffled off at each show. Fire Control plans to give away a Smokey Bear Hand Puppet and fire control literature. Show attendees can purchase Park season passes, Loon T-shirts and tote bags.

The exhibit will be on display on the 3rd floor in the Harlow Building starting Monday afternoon, March 10. Check it out: Positive comments are welcome.

Tom commented that scheduling looked tight for Augusta, but he is happy to report all the time slots have been filled. Robin Smith has done a great job managing the Orono show. Remember, if you are working the show, you get free admission to the entire event that day.

This year's Sportsman's Show is brought to you by: Gloria Allen, Susan Benson, Anne Bills, Tom Cieslinski, Charlene Daniels, Robin Smith, Joe Wiley, and Myron Witherall. ❖



## Rabies Alert: 1997 Season Update



Thirty-five cases of rabies have been confirmed in Southern and Western Maine since the beginning of 1997. Confirmed cases include reports from five new towns: Sabattus, Lewiston, Durham, Buckfield, and South Portland. This figure is three times higher than reported the same time last year; in 1996, a total of 131 cases of rabies were reported.

**Pat Bailey**, Bureau of Parks and Lands Park Interpretive Specialist is a member of the Rabies Work Group, an interagency group consisting of representatives from IF&W, Human Services, animal control officers, Maine Municipal

Association, area shelter operators and the State Police. The group - conceived in 1991 - has a mission to educate and inform the public about rabies, and to craft policies addressing this issue.

From 1977 to 1993, the mid-Atlantic strain of raccoon-adapted rabies spread through neighboring states to New Hampshire. Averaging 25 miles a year, the epizootic also made leaps of more than 100 miles, as raccoons hitched rides on trucks and dumpsters. In August, 1994 a rabid skunk in Eliot was Maine's first case of the mid-Atlantic strain. It has since spread across southern Maine and in December of 1996 this strain of rabies breached the barrier of the Androscoggin River.

Pat coordinates the public outreach efforts within Parks and Lands which consists of posters, brochures, and a Jeopardy-style quiz for children. She reminds folks that this information is intended to alert the reader not alarm them. "People who enjoy the outdoors need to know what to do to continue to enjoy the outdoors - safely."

If you would like more information, contact Pat at #287-2499.

- Watch out for wild animals, bats, skunks, foxes and raccoons.
- Tell children to stay away from animals they do not know.
- A rabid animal sometimes acts tame.

### What To Do Prior to An Emergency:

(Applicable for work and home)

- Call your local animal control officer and establish a relationship PRIOR to an emergency to learn what steps to follow.
- Vaccinate your pets. The majority of human cases is a result of exposure from pets.
- (Cats are 12 times more likely to be involved in a rabies incident, according to national statistics.)
- Keep a safe distance from animals you don't know.

### What To Do In An Emergency:

- Keep the public away from the animal.
- Call the local animal control officer.
- Do not attempt to catch or trap the animal.
- If you or someone has been exposed though either a bite or fresh saliva on an open wound, **WASH THE WOUND FOR 10 MINUTES** with soap and water.
- Contact a doctor.





State of Maine  
Bureau of Parks & Lands  
106 Hogan Road  
Bangor, Maine 04401  
telephone: (207) 941-4014  
fax: (207) 941-4222

To: Will Harris  
From: Tim Hall  
Date: February 11, 1997  
Subject: Thanks!

Earlier this week reconditioned computers were distributed to field managers in the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. As part of that distribution, managers attended a basic instruction program put on by the department's computer support staff.

Please let me pass along my appreciation for this tremendous effort. The reconditioned machines appear to work wonderfully, and have the capacity to operate the latest versions of our standard software programs. Our staff is already up and productive on their computers, as evidenced by the growing pile of e-mail now in my machine. But most importantly, your staff showed a real spirit of dedication to the project, and to making sure that our staff had what they needed to make this equipment useful and functional.

I hope that you will pass my appreciation on to Dick Arbour, Tom Driscoll and Richard Hook. Tom is an excellent instructor, and really helped our people understand, in a short time, how the equipment worked. Richard did a great job with the hardware, and is following up to make sure that the machines are doing what they should. And Dick really pulled everything together to make this distribution work well.

Again, thanks, Will, for your support of this important step in our reorganization.

cc. Tom Morrison

Ronald B. Lovaglio, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation  
22 State House Station  
Harlow Building  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Dear Sir:

This letter is to express my appreciation and thanks.

A retired school teacher, I have enjoyed working part time for several years for the Maine Forest Service at Masardis. This spring my wife fell and broke her hip. This summer my supervisors, Russ Beauchemin, Mike Ricci, and Bill Williams, allowed me flexibility in my work schedule so could care for her.

It is a pleasure to work for a good outfit.

Again, Thanks,

*Leonard Hutchins*  
Leonard Hutchins

cc: Charles J. Gadzik, Director, Maine Forest Service  
Thomas Parent, Forest Fire Control Supervisor  
Russ Beauchemin, Northern Regional Ranger  
Mike Ricci, Aroostook Waters District Ranger  
Bill Williams, Aroostook Waters Assistant District Ranger

GREAT JOB!

Dan Mike

Special "thank you" for all your  
efforts and assistance with the Finkel Building  
permit.

Siri and I really appreciated your  
help. The Finkel's, Shaw & Hopkins, are  
also pleased.  
You are the "go to extra" person  
who makes this all serve the public. WRC  
is most fortunate in having you as their  
representative!

Sincerely,  
Greg & Siri Botha

Phone 207-861-5000  
Fax 207-861-5149

Email: [noves\\_re@msn.com](mailto:noves_re@msn.com)

NOYES REAL ESTATE AGENCY  
Main Street, P.O. Box 1111, Rangeley, Maine 04970

RE: Mike Denarest - LURE

RECEIVED  
JAN 22 1997  
MAINE REGULATION COMMISSION

WAY TO GO!



## PLENTY OF SNOW

Park Manager **Frank Appleby** recently appeared on local television promoting the park, which is experiencing high use and good conditions.

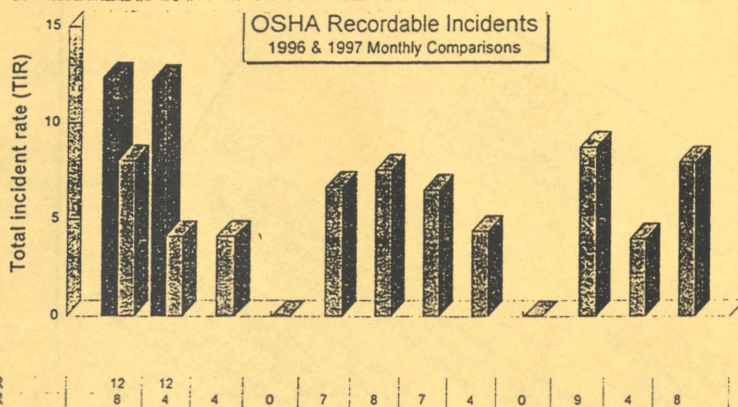
**Matt LaRoche** reports significant snow along the Penobscot River Corridor, with significant snowmobile and fishing activity at Lobster Lake - 300 folks on the first day!

## AND PLENTY OF USE

Despite a lack of snow in the southern and central areas of the state, northern park managers report plenty of winter use, perhaps caused by a bit of cabin fever and desperation. Hiking is the big activity at Camden Hills, although some folks are trying to ski and snowmobile on three inches of ice and snow cover. Fishing is big at Lake St. George and the Allagash, and the entrance areas at Lily Bay and Peaks-Kenny (seasonal parks) has been plowed to accommodate winter use.

## NEW EQUIPMENT

Badly needed replacements of capital equipment have been arriving recently throughout the region. New snowmobiles are in service in the AWW, which has also replaced a ranger patrol boat. A well-equipped replacement tractor will greatly help with trail maintenance and construction, according to Assistant Regional Manager **Mike Leighton**.



## Safety Report

- Deb Phillips

From the statistics indicated on the safety graph for January and February 1997, we are not doing as well as we had hoped. The total incident rate for January was one-third above that for the same month last year. In February we are two-thirds above that for the same month last year. Icy sidewalks and ski-sleds were major contributors as the cause of most OSHA recordable injuries we saw during these two months. Other causes continue to be soft-tissue injuries and cuts/bruises.

## ON-LINE

Parks and Historic Sites are now on line, thanks to the recent distribution of specially reconfigured personal computers. To kick things off, park managers traveled to Bangor to attend special training on the units provided by computer support staff **Dick Arbour**, **Tom Driscoll** and **Richard Hook**.

The Parks and Lands Office in Farmington new number is:  
778-8231

Calls can be made directly to the following:

Marc Albert.....778-8235

Tom Charles.....778-8233

John Hinkley.....778-8234

Pete Smith.....778-8237

Sue Starrett.....778-8231

Steve Swatling.....778-8238

Messages can be left on voice mail.