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What's Up, Doc? April 1997

Maine Department of Conservation

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What's Up, DOC?



Issue 4

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

April 1997

Commissioner's Column

I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of our most recent success stories with you.

It's important to celebrate life's little accomplishments (there usually are more of these) and really celebrate the BIG ones:

A big congratulations goes to **Fred Todd, the LURC planners**, and all of the staff who helped complete the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It has been rigorously reviewed and received public testimony and input. The Commission took it on as their document and has provided discussion and direction to the product all along the way. It's not easy to develop and write policy for a committee of diverse interests but Fred & Co. managed the impossible.

I encourage you to review your colleagues work (thanking our stars that we didn't have to do it) and offer recognition for a job well done.

Scott Ramsay took me on a great snowmobile ride through 70 miles of Aroostook County. We were on the *Governor's Ride* (yup, "the boss" led the way) and it gave Scott a chance to showcase the work he and his crew do to administer the Snowmobile-ATV Programs. We traveled on some great groomed trails and had the opportunity to see what less groomed trails feel like--oooh. "The County" had great snow this year, but it is DOC's snowmobile program partnering with many hard working volunteers from clubs that makes Maine snowmobiling such a success.

I also visited the **Natural Resources Law Enforcement Academy** during driver training at Brunswick Naval Air Station. They convinced me to try the

(continued on Page 2)

Editor's Note: This new edition to the newsletter will feature a different bureau each month focusing on programs, services or employees. April's edition features the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

LIBRARY USE ONLY

PARKS AND LANDS: A WINTER WONDERLAND OF USE - Herb Hartman

Colorful umbrellas, beach chairs and busloads of excited summer campers will accent Maine beaches, parks and lands this summer, but during the calm of wintertime, many Bureau of Parks and Land's facilities receive extensive, little-publicized, public use. Let's take a tour of the bureau's properties, from Aroostook State Park to Crescent Beach, and discover what winter fun took place.

Nestled in the Bigelow Mountain Range, The Lodge in the **Bigelow Preserve** experienced its biggest year ever with over 2,600 visitors which translates into a 44% increase over previous years. Manager Steve Swatling attributes this year's increase to improved trail grooming by local clubs and the completion of a logging road linking Stratton to Carabassett Valley on the south side of the Preserve, which establishes a loop trail around the Bigelow Mountain Range.

Open weekends from January through March, including February vacation week, the Lodge provides a warming stop for snowmobilers and cross country skiers who are greeted by John Hinkley who is accompanied by a cast of volunteers. When John isn't managing the Lodge, he visits local snowmobile clubs recruiting new volunteers to serve as weekend hosts through the SERVE/ME program.

Although a lack of snow resulted in little use of the three miles of groomed trails and roads in **Reid State Park**, there was no lack of excitement this winter for Manager Dan Bell, Ranger John Cooke, and Maintenance Mechanic Ron Shaw. Late February and early March storms battered the beach and caused extensive erosion which unearthed World War II military practice ordnances on Mile Beach. A Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Newport, Rhode Island, identified and removed the 45-50 pieces, none of which was "live".

After a snow deprived early winter, Manager Tom Skolfield reports February cross country skiing conditions at **Sebago Lake State Park** as the best he's seen in many years. Work was completed on trails, picnic tables, and signs, with help from the Community Youth Project, which works with the court and provides alternative sentencing project opportunities.

Zealous hikers took advantage of a snowless Christmas at **Camden Hills, Holbrook Island, Cobscook Bay, and Moose Point** state parks, although ice storms made trails treacherous in some cases. Ice fishing, with parking at **Damariscotta Lake** and **Lake St. George** was a popular activity this winter as well.

(continued on Page 2)

course both backing up and driving forward. It's a great way to humble folks who think they can drive - like me. For what seemed like miles, I had to back up through parallel cones that were arranged in a serpentine-like pattern and other sado-masochistic configurations, all aimed to test your abilities. When I was done, the cones looked like road kill. When you've had this course -YOU'VE HAD THE COURSE!

Ranger Bruce Small professionally directs this course, and I believe this is a valuable way to build up our driving skills: skills that should help lower our bumping & backing vehicle accident rate as well as general accident avoidance.

In March I received one of those phone calls you just love to get because it illustrates the outstanding attitude and service that department employees give to the people of Maine. **Ranger Charlie Clukey** came across a couple of motorists with car trouble around the Newport area. They were trying to get to work in Augusta. Ranger Clukey was also on his way to Augusta, and after getting help for the vehicle and driver, he offered the passenger a lift so that both motorists wouldn't miss work that day.

The passenger - former Representative and Appropriations Committee member Hugh Morrison - called me to let me know how thankful and impressed he and his friend were with the very helpful and courteous assistance of Ranger Clukey. This is an example of how we earn public respect and support: one good deed at a time. And Charlie, thanks for making the DOC look good.

Thanks to tremendous support from the **Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee** and the Appropriations Committee during this budget process. I will add to that that the support has been bipartisan and extends to legislators beyond the mentioned committees. The ACF Committee members deserve our thanks!

RM

DOC Anniversaries

15 Years

Richard C. Libby
Timothy P. Thurston

20 Years

Raymond S. Gilbert
Kenny R. Wing

25 Years

Douglas E. Getchell

30 Years

William H. Getchell

WINTER WONDERLAND

survival during this winter's frequent thaws, and a warming hut, stove, and lights make the rink a popular night spot. Snowshoeing use was up and so was sledding on the Center Hill Picnic Area Road. Park staff reports the Webb Beach milieu attracts ice fishermen, snowmobilers, and skiers.

Bradbury Mountain State Park's borders expanded by 150 acres of abutting forest land, generously donated to the State, providing an ideal setting for more trails. Work on improving the trail system continues in anticipation of two, new summertime park users: horseback riders and mountain bicyclists.

Aroostook State Park Manager Frank Appleby reported prime cross country skiing through most of the season which kept staff busy grooming the 15 miles of trails on the five foot base of snow! The lakes of the **Allagash Waterway** and **Penobscot Corridor** were destinations for snowmobilers and ice fishermen.

Skating increased on the pond at **Two Lights State Park**, which park staff is now able to clear of snow. Normally **Crescent Beach State Park** sees a lot of cross country skiers, but this year beach walkers predominated. The "cluster" shop built bulletin boards for a number of park facilities and reserved land units, as well as twelve "wet willie" privies for campsites on reserved lands.

Contributors to this article include:

Frank Appleby, Dan Bell, Gordon Bell, Tim Caverly, Bruce Farnham, Lee Griffin, Tim Hall, Matt Laroche, Mick Rogers, John Scott, Tom Skolfield, Steve Swatling, and Stuart Wagner.

January 24, 1997

Dear Sirs:

To whom it may concern--

I want to commend the Greenville office of your department.

Whoever answers the phone is always courteous, helpful, and very pleasant.

Several times I've talked with Gary Morse who has answered my questions in a very pleasant, courteous, and helpful way also.

All this makes me feel that I can call the Greenville office and always get such excellent treatment.

Such fine service should be mentioned to you so you'll know it is appreciated.

Yours truly,
Louis Stevens
Louis Stevens
Box 231
Dover-Foxcroft, Me 04426

EXCELLENT

TWIN PEAKS CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

Fri 28

Mr Tim Hall, Reg. Manager
Bureau of Parks & Lands
106 Hogan Road
Bangor ME 04401

Dear Tim:

I believe it's unanimous: This season has been the best skiing in more years than we can remember! And high praise goes to the crew at Aroostook State Park!

Snow conditions have been great since mid-January. But without the committed services of Park Ranger Scott Thompson and his ACAP assistant Newman Gallagher we wouldn't be able to enjoy them. It's obvious they take pride in doing a good job, and serving the public. Trails have been consistently maintained in top condition, in spite of frequent snowstorms. Scott demonstrates his commitment by regularly asking skiers about trail conditions and their grooming efforts. (Some members said the last time they could recall such consistently good trails was several years ago when Joe Poyers and Devon Beale were at the Park.) And the word is getting around to the public, as each weekend we notice more vehicles in the lot.

While on the trails this winter I've talked with a number of people who have skied at numerous facilities throughout the State. All say there are no better trails anywhere, and ASP is superior to most! On the other hand, I regularly talk to people in town and throughout the County who don't even know about the skiing at ASP. I'm sure we can all work together to spread the word and make the Park a prime attraction in central Aroostook!

We look forward to continuing a good working relationship!

Sincerely,
Bruce Wilkins
Bruce Wilkins, President
764-4728

KUDOS!

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
106 HOGAN ROAD
BANGOR, MAINE 04401



ANGUS S KING JR
GOVERNOR

February 19, 1997

Ron Lovaglio
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Dear Ron,

We heard recently that you had concerns over the apparent loss of departmental identity in the field. This might be particularly true with signs, which may be giving more exposure to bureau identities than to our overall identity as a department.

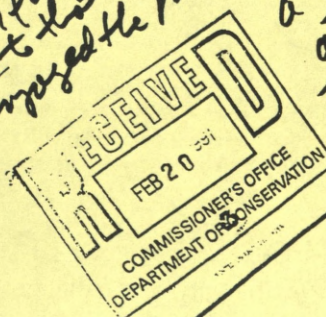
You know, you're right. We recently took stock of our crack regional team is now on the job, working to establish our office as a proud unit of the Department of Conservation. We've spread the word to our field operations also, and will work with our park managers to make sure that people will be able to clearly identify the Department of Conservation as the agency responsible for all those beautiful and important state parks and historic sites.

Not to worry. You can see from the enclosed photograph that our crack regional team is now on the job, working to establish our office as a proud unit of the Department of Conservation. We've spread the word to our field operations also, and will work with our park managers to make sure that people will be able to clearly identify the Department of Conservation as the agency responsible for all those beautiful and important state parks and historic sites.

Thanks for helping us to focus. If you drop by our offices, I hope that you will notice a difference in our identification. And I hope that you might find me actually at work.

Sincerely,
Tim Hall
Tim Hall
Regional Manager

enc.



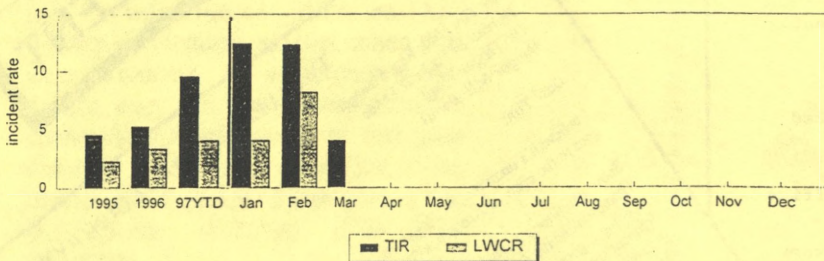
PHONE: (207) 941-4244
FAX: (207) 941-4222
TTY: (207) 287-2313

*I read job, Tim
and "crack team"
I appreciate the humor
and the excellent
follow-up*

BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS
TIMOTHY A. MORRISON, DIRECTOR

Department of Conservation

OSHA Recordable Incidents/ Safety Report



(Current as of: Mar. 31, 1997)

A Message from the Commissioner about Safety:

We showed improvement in March with no lost time injuries and only one recordable incident.

Our 1997 year-to-date record shows a discouraging trend upward in incidents and lost time from 1995 & 1996.

Our goal is to cut in half the TIR & LWCR from 1996. It is achievable by great diligence from each of us in DOC. It is achievable if we have no more incidents of OSHA recordable injuries this year.

Let's do it!

Law Enforcement Academy

- Jim Downie

The Third State Law Enforcement Basic School concluded on Friday, March 21 with 30 conservation law enforcement officers graduating from the 10-week academy. Over 500 people attended this year's graduation which was held at the Kennebec Valley Vocational Technical College in Fairfield. Seven Forest Rangers, fifteen Wardens, seven Marine Patrol Officers and one Baxter Park Ranger successfully completed the course that is sponsored by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Many of these officers will now go on to additional field training within their respective agencies.

Our list of graduates include: **Benjamin Ayer, Christopher Beyer, George Harris, Douglas Huettner, Richard Martin, Shawn Rogers and Travis Willey.** Representing the department: **Ron Lovaglio, Chuck Gadzik and Tom Parent.** The course

began on January 13 and ended March 21.

Preparing for Fire Disasters

Ranger **Harry Doughty** attended the National Incident Command System Team meetings on March 18-21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The USFS has 18 national teams that are on a three week rotating schedule and available for fire disasters throughout the nation. Doughty, who has extensive western fire experience, has been instrumental in teaching the ICS system to other State and Federal agencies, and most recently, the Maine State Police. Two years ago, Doughty coordinated water bombing activities on the Long Island New York fires.

A Tribute to a Friend and Colleague - Tim Hall

Employees and friends of the Department are saddened with the loss of W. E. "Wimpy" Burnham, who died on March 24, 1997 after a long illness.

After working with the Maine Forest Service, Wimpy joined the Maine State Park Commission in 1956 as a Park Ranger at Camden Hills State Park. Over the next 35 years, Wimpy served the people of Maine as a Ranger, Park Manager and Regional Supervisor at assignments throughout the State. He retired from the Department of Conservation in 1991.

Throughout his career, Wimpy was known for his keen sense of humor and his wonderful storytelling ability. Known and loved by staff and visitors alike, Wimpy became a part of what State Parks and Historic Sites represented, epitomizing the image of the friendly and helpful State Park Ranger.

His tremendous respect for the Maine State Park system and its beautiful resources was matched only by his desire to share those resources with visitors, fellow employees and friends.

Wimpy will be missed, but his spirit will live on in the people whose lives he touched during his life and career.