

6-1-1997

What's Up, Doc? June 1997

Maine Department of Conservation

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Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Conservation, "What's Up, Doc? June 1997" (1997). *Conservation Newsletters*. 176.
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What's Up, DOC?



Issue 6

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

June 1997

Commissioner's Column

Finally, welcome to summer!

I visited Reid State Park over memorial day and found Steve Thibodeau furiously selling season passes. My wife and I were impressed with the extraordinarily courteous manner that Steve had with our customers. By the way, the alewives are running at Damariscotta Mills.

They're going up the ladder at a rate of 1500 per day. It's a sight worth seeing--and a public-private volunteer conservation effort with great impact.

Safety--our summer ranks swell by 200 hundred employees and our injury rate usually goes up. It's important to focus on this fact and make the extra effort and personal commitment to "not allow the mad injury dog to bite me." Please see the graph of April or May's injury index in the newsletter.

This was a pretty active legislative session. I want you to know that our Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee was extraordinarily supportive of the department and most of our issues. We got a special vote of confidence for presenting our issues factually and truthfully. We also have their confidence that we manage our finances responsibly. I can't tell you how important it is to have a committee that works with you rather than thinking they have to "fix" a problem department. You all, by your actions in the field, have helped earn the committee's confidence--Thank you.

(continued on Page 2)

LIBRARY USE ONLY

Heat Policy

Effective April 1, 1997, the Department of Administration and Financial Services has changed the Heat Policy affecting employees in office settings across state government. Several factors contributed to this change, including our increasing dependency on computers. Please see the Heat Stress Policy Chart for new levels.

What does this mean to you, the office worker? We'll cover flexible work schedules, dress code, medical conditions, and the dismissal policy in this article.

Flexible/Alternative work arrangements:

Alternative work arrangements may include relocating employees to other work sites, allowing them to work at home where possible, or modifying their work schedule on a voluntary, temporary basis when excess heat conditions are predicted.

Dress code:

The Department has always attempted to be considerate and flexible regarding personal attire of employees during times of high heat and humidity, and in the past have permitted shorts and cooler clothing. It is expected, however, that individuals will dress in a manner reflecting the level of professionalism inherent in their individual positions and when dealing with the public.

NOT ALLOWED:

- cutoffs or gym shorts
- halter tops
- other forms of attire that detract from the business image we should portray

Medical conditions:

Employees with documented medical conditions which make them more susceptible to heat induced illness are requested to inform Deb Phillips so that any accommodations required can be made. At times when the temperature/humidity levels are below the threshold but excessive for some individuals, they may request comp time or vacation time. Sick leave provisions shall apply to those employees who become ill from heat exposure or those known to have a medical condition that pose a health risk when exposed to excess heat.

Readings and Dismissal Policy:

Employees concerned that the temperature/humidity levels at your work site exceed acceptable levels who work in Augusta should contact: Deb Phillips, Ship Bright, or Will Harris. Those employees working at a regional office, contact the supervisor on site.

An initial temperature and humidity measurement will be made, followed up by another one half hour later. If these two readings exceed the temperature conditions, alternative working arrangements will be made.

(continued on Page 2)

Commissioner's Column

(continued from Page 1)

A special comment: There was a bill to arm Forest Rangers that passed the legislature but eventually failed at the Appropriations Committee for funding. Having heard the debate, I'm convinced that we need a rigorous review of the conditions our Rangers work in with special regard to their personal safety. I am committed to see that this is accomplished.

I also want to reinforce my accessibility: I still have an "open door policy." I am available by an appointment, by e-mail, by phone, or for a "drop in." Come in; tell me what's on your mind or find out what's on mine. I also accept invitations to your shops and events. I'd be glad to come to Region, Division or District meetings occasionally.

Since I spend only about 25 percent of my time in the office, the drop in is more risky if you've traveled but it does work for many.

Ron

Play Ball!

The Department of Conservation softball team's '97 season has begun and we are still in need of players. The roster is open to all men and women who are employees (or are related to employees) of the department (and we have stretched the definition in the past to include former employees of DOC, too). The team is a part of a coed league consisting of other agencies of the State.

If you play softball, would like to play softball, can successfully identify a softball, please come out and play!

John B. Poisson, GM 287-7176
or e-mail John and express your interest.

(continued from Page 1)

Dismissal:

Bureau Directors will develop plans for office and phone coverage. Administrative leave will be granted only as a last resort. In the commissioner's absence, Ship, Will or Deb are authorized to release employees.

Safety Video:

Informational material regarding the proper precautions for working in heat stress areas, potential health effects of excessive heat and first aid procedures, relevant signs and symptoms will be available to employees through Deb Phillips. You can also obtain information on Internet. Check out this site located at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety/bulletins/hotenvir/hotenvir.html>

This policy targets office settings, but we recognize that many of our colleagues are working outside under extreme conditions. We stress that field people should take the necessary precautions and recognize the signs of heat stress.



A Credit to the Maine Forest Service

Maine Forest Service Ranger Robert Gross of Island Falls recently received high praise by the Board of Selectmen of the town of Patten for his assistance in the appointment of the new town forest fire warden. "Mr. Gross was very helpful to us, and his professionalism is a credit to the Maine Forest Service," said Carolyn Ryan, Chairman, Board Of Selectman, Town of Patten.

Fire Video to Air This Fall

1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the devastating forest fires of 1947. In cooperation with WGME Television of Portland, the Fire Control Division has produced a 30 minute documentary which includes several interviews with people who fought these fires and homeowners who lost virtually all their possessions. Governor King is also featured. According to Jim Downie this video will be available for sale later this fall. It is expected to air simultaneously on the three CBS stations in late September.

DOC Legislative Round Up

The first session of the 118th Legislature has come to a close. This session made history when they formally adjourned on March 27th and came back into special session the next work day. Furthermore this legislature adjourned by the end of May when they have historically gone into July before they adjourned.

This compressed schedule meant that your legislative team was in a super fast response mode for the entire session. It was a grueling and exhausting experience for everyone involved.

We actively tracked 139 pieces of legislation this year. The general rule of thumb is that 10% of the bills will take up 90% of your time and that was certainly true in this session. A number of bills dealing with forestry issues have been carried over until January for the second session of the 118th. Most of these bills will be effected by the outcome of November's referendum vote on the forest compact.

In the next newsletter Ship will talk about some individual pieces of legislation and what the result will be for us this summer.

Author: /c=US/admd= /prmd=Mainegovt/o=/s=Stagge/g=Robert/ at mailhub
 Date: 7/3/96 9:36 AM
 Priority: Normal
 TO: /c=US/admd= /prmd=Mainegovt/o=/s=webmaster(u)doc/ at mailhub
 BCC: Susan Benson at DOC
 Subject: Bureau of Parks and Lands Web Page

Hi. Very nice site! Someone put a lot of hours into this one. Photos look great in the table.

Enjoyed looking through your site. Very informative. Thanks!

Bob Stagge
 Bureau of Information Services

Author: DougKelsey@aol.com at Internet
 Date: 2/3/97 12:46 PM
 Priority: Normal
 TO: /s=webmaster(u)doc/prmd=Mainegovt/admd= /c=US/ at mailhub
 BCC: Susan Benson at DOC
 Subject: DOC home page

What a nice home page. One of the best I've seen and with lots of good information. I found it very easy to move about and get the information I was seeking (Allagash Wilderness Waterway) and also I like the links to the other agencies. Good job!

dougkelsey@aol.com

Our Web Pages are HOT!!



Kieve

A non-profit

Henry R. Kennedy, CEO/Camp Director

May 8, 1997

Mr. Ron Lavaglio, Commissioner
 Department of Conservation
 State House Station 22
 Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Ron,

I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you what a wonderful employee you have in Tim Thurston. Down here on Damariscotta Lake we have had increasing problems with jet skis, faster and louder boats, harassment of wildlife, disregard for the 200 foot safety zone, and other issues that have made life on the lake less enjoyable than in decades past. Tim has worked with the Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association to help solve many of these problems. With Tim's efforts and those of the Great Ponds Task Force I am confident that Damariscotta Lake and other Maine icons will be preserved for the next generations. Tim is always professional and courteous. He also has an uncanny knack for arriving just as lunch is served to 150 or more screaming early teenagers! Seriously, it is good for the kids to see a state official with a smile on his face without any trouble involved.

The folks down at the Kennedy Learning Center asked me to send along their regards as well. Most of our summer weekend dates are fully booked but there are several openings during the week; should you guys be planning any meetings this summer, please don't hesitate to call Renee Roy at 563-2188 and I am sure she can provide a comfortable, affordable place for your meetings.

Please give my best to Shippen Bright and all of our other friends in Augusta.

Sincerely,

Henry R. Kennedy
 Henry R. Kennedy
 HRK/jh

Excellence,
 Professionalism
 and Teamwork
 at work here

py to team at DOC - with Congratulation and Thanks!

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

169 Park Row • Brunswick, Maine 04011 • Telephone (207) 29-366 • Fax (207) 29-6404
 P.O. Box 426 • Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662 • Telephone (207) 276-5156 • Fax (207) 276-5157

Governor Angus S. King, Jr.
 Office of the Governor
 1 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0001

May 2, 1997

Dear Angus:

Thanks so much for sharing with me a copy of your letter to Mason Walsh of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. I know that your kind words will mean a great deal to Mason and the trustees.

What a terrific project! Ron Lavaglio, Tom Morrison, Ralph Knoll and Surran Pyne all performed magnificently in pulling the deal together. When it comes to land conservation, the State certainly has a wonderful team at DOC.

Let's do this again sometime!! I will be keeping my eyes open for future opportunities with Mellon and others. Thanks again and best wishes.

RECEIVED
 MAY 12 1997

DEPT. OF CONSERVATION
 AUGUSTA, ME

Sincerely,
James I. Espy, Jr.
 James I. Espy, Jr.
 President

DOC Anniversaries

15 Years
Gordeen Skolfield
Daniel Locke

20 Years
Mellie Giles
David Percy
James Ecker

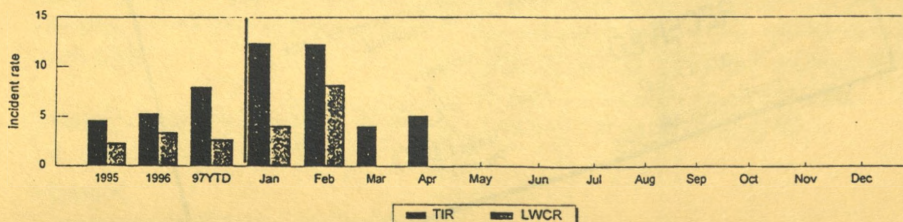
25 Years
John Scott, Jr.
Sarah Crosby

30 Years
James McMullen
Tim Caverly
Richard Morse
Ben Kreiton
Scott Woodruff
Richard Beedy

Safety Report Deb Phillips

For the past two months, we have had no lost time injuries. In March we had only one recordable injury, and April showed two such injuries. For a department as large and dispersed as ours, those are not bad statistics—keep up the good work! With our busy season now upon us, it's important that we all continue to take precautions to ensure for the health and safety of not only ourselves but our fellow workers.

Department of Conservation
OSHA Recordable Incidents/ Safety Report



Current as of: Mar. 31, 1997

SIGNS OF HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Sweating, moist, clammy skin
- Weakness and fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting, headache, disorientation

DO NOT:

- Do not give victim any stimulants, including alcohol and cigarettes
- Do not apply ice directly to skin
- Do not allow victim to become so cold that he or she shivers
- Do not leave victim alone

WHAT TO DO:

- Remove victim from heat
- Apply cool, wet cloths. Fan victim. Stop if victim develops goose bumps or shivers.
- If victim is conscious, give fluids. If possible, have victim drink a mixture of 1 pint water with 1 teaspoon of salt every 30 minutes until person recovers

HEATSTROKE

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

- Hot dry skin
- Red or spotted skin
- Extremely high body temperature

DO NOT:

- Do not give any fluids
- Do not give victim aspirin or any other medication to lower fever
- Do not apply ice directly to skin
- Do not allow victim to become so cold that he or she shivers
- Do not leave victim alone

WHAT TO DO:

- Remove person from heat
- Remove victim's clothing and place him or her in cool bath, if possible. Or apply cool compresses to body. Get medical attention immediately

Heat Stress Policy Chart

