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# What's Up, Doc? July 1997

Maine Department of Conservation

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# What's Up, DOC?



Issue 7

A Newsletter for Department of Conservation Employees

July 1997

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## The Department of Conservation Radio Communications Unit

The DOC Radio Communications Unit designs, purchases and maintains the two-way radio system for the Department of Conservation.

### History:

In 1946 the Division of Forest Fire Control, formally the Maine Forestry District, was the first to acquire radios for use in forestry lookout towers and to provide communication between chief wardens and patrolmen. After the famous 1947 fires, the need for better means of communicating - while detecting and suppressing forest fires - was very evident. The early 1950's brought many improvements in two-way radio technology and personnel were hired to maintain and support the Maine Forest Service radio system. In 1972 the system consisted of approximately 650 radios.

### Today's Radio System:

The radio system today, made up of over 1100 radios, is built around a framework of 15 mountaintop repeaters and three dispatch centers providing radio contact with mobiles and portables throughout the state. Ten of these repeaters are powered by sunlight through the use of solar panels which produce the electricity, and batteries which provide storage of the electrical power for use during the night and on cloudy days. These solar systems operate year-round, day and night never requiring refueling.

### What Two-Way Radios Do For DOC:

With 80% of the department's radios in the Division of Forest Fire Control, that division relies heavily on reliable radio communications to provide forest fire detection and suppression. Their law enforcement activities require direct communications with other law enforcement agencies.

Radios are used extensively in the state parks to provide service to the public and in responding to emergencies. The Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Penobscot River Corridor are places where radio communications may be the only means of communications available.

Radios provide not only means for emergency communications, but also have proven to be a very cost effective method of meeting some of the needs in the day to day administration of the department.

### The Radio Communications Unit:

The Radio Communications Unit works as a part of the Division of General Services with a staff of one supervisor, **Rodney Littlefield** and three Communications Technicians: **Tom O'Keefe**, **John McCormack** and **Mark MacKinnon**. The unit has two radio labs, one at Bolton Hill in Augusta and one at the Old Town DOC Headquarters.

(continued on page two)

## Attention, Shutter Bugs !

We need photos showing the public enjoying our parks and public reserved lands. We will use them for the 1998 Sportsman's show, the Internet and displays promoting the department and programs. If you are out in the field and can take photos - here's a list of specific shots we need:

- ♦ Crowded beach with people having fun
- ♦ Close up shots of kids playing at parks; on swing sets, slides, running across the beach, playing Frisbee, ball, surf boarding
- ♦ Family picnicking, picnic table surrounded by campers
- ♦ Campsite, tents, people getting the fire ready, cooking over a campfire, cleaning fish
- ♦ Fishing
- ♦ Camping
- ♦ Water sports
- ♦ Boaters
- ♦ Full boat site, off-loading a boat into the water
- ♦ Hiking
- ♦ Remote trails, people hiking on them
- ♦ Park rangers working on trails, showing interpretive panels, giving nature tours, walks, and showing kids about nature, doing programs
- ♦ Canoeing
- ♦ Foliage shot: include location where it was taken
- ♦ Special events at historic sites, reenactments, people in costume

(continued on page two)



**The Department of Conservation  
Radio Communications Unit**  
(continued from page one)

The Radio Communications Unit provides system design, maintenance and support to the department's radio users. The unit also provides installation and maintenance of aircraft avionics equipment (that's the electronic equipment in aircraft). The unit is also a vital part of the Division of Forest Fire Control's Incident Management Team. In the Department of Conservation, if it has to do with means of communicating, the Radio Communications Unit usually plays a key role.

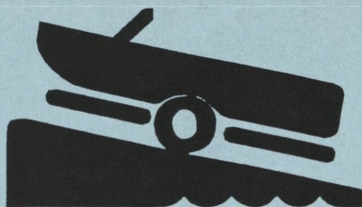
**New Faces - New Places**

Congratulations go to Andy Haskell, who has been appointed to manage Lily Bay State Park on Moosehead Lake. Andy comes to this position with 9 seasons of park management experience at Swan Lake, Quoddy Head, and Grafton Notch State Parks. Andy has also worked at Camden Hills, Lake St. George and Aroostook State Parks. We welcome Andy to the management team in the Northern region, and look forward to working with him in his new position. We also welcome Kurt Shoener, who will be the new Ranger at Lake St. George State Park, and Matthew Munson, who will be working this summer as an intern at Holbrook Island Sanctuary. In fact, we extend sincere greetings to all of our newly hired staff, which number nearly 20 in the Northern Region.

**Attention, Shutter Bugs!**  
(continued from page one)

When possible, take shots of park signs, trail signs, landmarks, vistas (prefer people in the photo), Loon repair signs near the upgraded facility, trail or playground.

What you'll get: When possible, we'll credit your photo. Send the photo and the negative to Susan Benson. Copies will be made and original package returned to you. Please include your name, business address and a daytime phone.



**Lots to Do**

Don't stop making your summer plans yet; look at these special events at Maine State Parks: Fort Knox now offers a Living History Volunteer, who will work regularly at the fort this summer, supplementing tours with stories and demonstrations. Set aside July 19 for the Day of the Sword, a fencing demonstration and competition at Fort Knox. And on June 27, head on down to Brooksville (Community Center) for a concert benefiting Holbrook Island Sanctuary.

The artists: Bosa Nova Beatnicks. Cool!

**Maine Trails Day  
A Success Story**

Saturday, June 7 was declared by Governor King as Maine Trails Day, and celebrations occurred at Bradbury Mountain State Park, Camden Hills, Donnell Pond and Turner. According to the state coordinator, Laurie McPherson, over 1,500 volunteers hit the trails on Saturday at more than 30 locations. **Susan Benson** had the pleasure of working at the Bradbury event: led by the Maine Conservation Corps, volunteers from L.L. Bean, New England Mountain Bike Shop and Maine Equine Advisory Council took the first steps to get trails ready for shared use. Bradbury Mountain is the first southern Maine State Park to be open to hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders.

**Ron Lovaglio** greeted the hundred or so volunteers and welcomed the AmeriCorp crew from Maryland (they were the ones donning mosquito hats.) Park Manager **Mick Rogers** and Ranger **Gary Best** dominated the Portland media market hosting interviews by Roberta Scruggs from the Portland Press Herald, Bill Green from WCSH-TV and Marnie MacLean from WGME-TV. In fact the Channel 6 news crew came to Bradbury and Bill Green interviewed **Steve Curtis**. A mysterious caller, "Ron from Augusta", asked about the spectacular *Outdoors in Maine* brochure.

Five work sites kept volunteers who boasted various skill levels busy, and despite the proliferation of mosquitoes, crews completed a lot of work to get the trails ready for the new users. And after the T-shirts and L.L. Bean water bottles were handed out, tired but enthusiastic crews came down off the trails. Burgers--both meat and veggie--were devoured, and success reined the day. As Susan so nicely put it, "I enjoyed meeting the MCC crew, and really getting to know the folks at Bradbury. It's nice to work at the parks and meet the people who are keeping our natural resources open, safe and ready to be enjoyed by all."





# UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FORT KENT

9 June 1997

Chuck Gadzik, Director  
Maine Forest Service  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Dear Mr. Gadzik:

This is a letter of appreciation to your agency and Thomas Whitworth for generously providing presentations on Maine's forestry laws and the forest practices act to our students on two different occasions (12/5/96 and 4/30/97). I greatly appreciate Tom's expertise and his willingness to share that expertise with our students. Over the last 10 or more years, Tom, and the Maine Forest Service, has been a great friend to this University. The sharing of information concerning forestry and forestry issues has enhanced our program.

Thank you. We appreciate Mr. Whitworth's many contributions.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
Dave Hobbs  
Assoc. Prof. of Forestry  
and Environmental Studies



# KACEE

Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education  
2510 Challen Road  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2798  
913-537-7050  
Fax: 913-539-9584

May 28, 1997

Mary Ann McGarry  
Maine Forest Service  
SHS # 22 Harlow Bldg  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mary Ann:

I just got back in the office and am trying to wade through a mess on my desk from being gone for two weeks.

I just want to extend my sincere thanks to you, Jeanne and all the others involved in putting on the PLT By The Sea International Coordinators Conference. The Maine hospitality everyone demonstrated was most gracious and appreciated. Having put on a number of conferences myself over my professional career, I know the amount of hard work and dedication it takes on the part of a lot of people to make a successful conference--and this one was extremely successful.

Please express my appreciation to all who helped make our Conference a most enjoyable and worthwhile one.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*  
John K. Strickler  
Executive Director

pc Kathy McGlauffin  
Charles Gadzik

## INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Clayton Lake, Me.  
04737

RECEIVED

JUN 17 1997

DEPT OF CONSERVATION  
6/22/97

Re:

Last month on May 16 there was a canoe capsized in the Thorofare at Unascho. There were two people involved, one of which was an 80-year old gentleman. A very courageous and helpful camper got the couple to the camp and as I just happened by he sent me to call someone. I tried Kim Allen and got her. She came right away and was very helpful. She took charge of the situation, gave some first aid which really was important in that she realized stitches were needed in a cut, and generally turned the situation around from a terrible experience to one that turned out pretty well.

I saw one of the party after the incident when they came back to get their gear. He seemed pleased with everything and said he would be back another year. I'm glad Kim was around!

*Bill Appleton*

DOC

Employees

are way Cool!





## DOC Anniversaries

15 Years  
Roger McLellan  
Joseph Kelley

20 Years  
David Hilton  
Robert Tucker

25 Years  
Stephen Dyer

30 Years  
Douglas Tyler

## WOW!

**Phil Farr** recently took stock of grants and awards made to projects at Holbrook Island Sanctuary, either directly to the Bureau of Parks & Lands or to the Friends of Holbrook Island Sanctuary. The awards, made by WalMart (Ellsworth), the Maine Community Foundation, the Brooklin Garden Club, Johnsons Arboriculture Grant, Burger King, the Lura A. Farr Memorial Fund, and Landmark Volunteers, total \$3,534.00 this year alone.

## Locked Out

Here's two incidents that make you wanna go "hmmmmmm." At Moose Point, a couple were so interested in watching the park's resident seal Rocky that they didn't notice that they had locked the keys inside the car—with the motor running and a baby and a dog inside. Park staff summoned assistance from the local police department.

At Fort Point, park manager **Terry Cole** reports a visitor asking to borrow an ax. Curiosity aroused, park staff determined that the visitor had locked his keys in the car. The hapless visitor refused all offers of assistance, borrowed a hammer, broke out the driver's side window, and drove off, brushing aside bits of glass as he went.

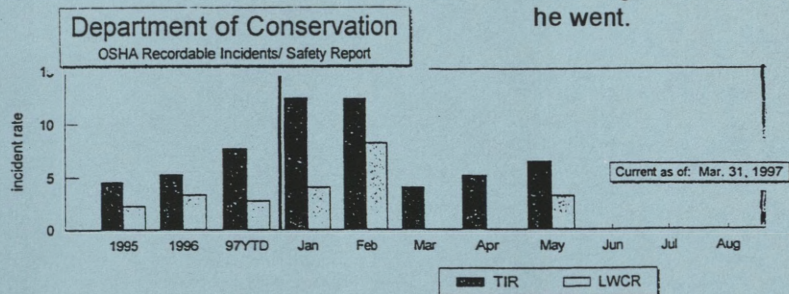
### For Current Rabies Information

For updated information on Rabies in Maine check out Department of Humans Service's, Bureau of Health web page at:

<http://www.state.me.us/dhs/etl/rabies/rab97.htm>

## Safety Report

The summer months are now upon us and we are completely up and running with our field programs. As trends have indicated during the past two years, this is the time of year that we see more injuries. Our goal this year is to break that trend. Managers and employees alike play an important role in ensuring that our work is performed in the safest and most health conscious manner possible. A different approach taken recently involves risk management and assessment. When accidents occur, questions now asked involve such things as how the accident occurred, was safety equipment and clothing used, and how the accident could have been prevented. This information will be very useful to the department's Safety Committee as it goes about its task of developing a safety program.



## New England Energy Forecast

Due to the shutdown of several major electrical generators in the Northeast, there is a possibility of electrical power shortages this summer. The State has instituted a new three-step procedure for reducing electrical usage on hot days with high energy demand. When these days occur, power usage should be cut back between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. By all of us carefully conserving our electrical power usage we can avoid having electrical power interruptions and blackouts this summer.

**Conservation Day Purpose:** To reduce electrical usage to minimum levels without disrupting work flow.

**Power Watch Purpose :** To reduce electrical usage to minimum levels with only minor inconvenience and disruption to work flow.

**Power Warning Purpose:** To reduce electrical usage immediately, except where doing so would threaten health and safety or result in property damage. Critical tasks that cannot be postponed (i.e. payroll processing, etc.) should be continued. All other tasks should be continued as long as possible. Authorization to release employees, if necessary will come from the Commissioner or his designee.