

'Sucker' Poisson Gets Hooked By Joe's Caddis Fly



Black Powder Bears

- Al Raychard

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Muzzleloading Black Bears

September is just around the corner and for a good slug of Maine hunters it means bear hunting season is upon us as well. Since its introduction the in-line muzzleloader has

of hunting with muzzleloaders a common topic of discussion in camps and elsewhere is what is the best type and size muzzleloader bullet for hunting bears. I've killed a few

tom line is they will all kill bears.

Although I've heard some horror stories my personal experience has been bears are not tough to kill but it pays to keep a few things in mind. A bear's heart is not gigantic, it's low and forward in the chest and protected by rug-



Muzzleloading Afield

by Al Raychard,
Lyman, ME

down a bullet the fat layer in particular clogs easily resulting in a poor blood trail, if there's a blood trail at all. Whether hunting over bait, with dogs or hunting over natural foods, whenever

experience, knowing how that bullet will perform and what has performed well and what their muzzleloader shoots accurately.

Although there is little doubt light muzzleloader

Although there is little doubt light muzzleloader bullets will kill a bear with proper shot placement, one thing I have noticed in these camp talks and discussions is the general consensus among experienced bear hunters is the heavier the bullet the better.

ged leg bone. Although the lungs provide a larger target, depending on positioning it is protected by bone and a large shoulder blade. The entire body is covered by a thick matte of hair, hide and in September after a summer of heavy feeding layers of fat that can be a couple inches thick.

Even if the shot placement misses bone that hair, hides and fat not only slows

or however, this means mustering patience and waiting for the optimum shot opportunity. It is also essential to hit a bear hard, deep and in the right spot.

Every muzzleloader hunter I have ever talked with or had the privilege of being in camp with has his or her favorite bullet for the game they are hunting. That preference is generally governed by past

bullets will kill a bear with proper shot placement, one thing I have noticed in these camp talks and discussions is the general consensus among experienced bear hunters is the heavier the bullet the better. It makes little difference whether it's a .45 caliber bullet in a sabot fired from a .50 caliber gun or full bore bullet fired from a .50-caliber
(Bears cont. pg 11)



The author's bear taken with his .50 caliber muzzleloader loaded with full-bore lead bullet.

become and remains one of the more popular ways of hunting bears. This is especially true during the baiting period where the average shot range is relatively close.

Despite the popularity

bears in my day with everything from .50-caliber roundballs and full-bore lead conicals to .45-caliber full and copper-jacketed sabot rounds. You name it and I've used it at one time or another. The bot-

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Nice Bear
 Photo by Al Raychard

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Northwoods Bowhunter - Pg 13
 Brian Smith



The Maine Woods - Pg 34
 Matt LaRoche



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The views and opinions expressed by our monthly columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of this publication.



Singing Maine Guide - Pg 59
 Randy Spencer



Aroostook Woods & Water - Pg 20
 Mike Maynard

Female Bear Hunters Increasing

Initially, I was sure that it was just my algorithm that resulted in seeing more bear hunting pictures and stories on social media. Leading up to baiting

with 802 holding bear tags. Last year, the numbers grew with women increasing to 1069 or 8.7% licenses sold out of 12,281 total. It is not a large jump

the Big Game Management Plan was written in 2016, a conservative number of 36,000 bears was mentioned with an average annual growth of 2-4% bears. Using those figures,

bear tag and learn how to bear hunt. It is not unrealistic.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have friends and fellow hunters mentor

Women In The Woods

by Erin Merrill,
Portland, ME

come bear hunters. If you are able, invite a new or interested hunter to go out with you!

Erin is a member of

In 2018, 10,066 people held Maine bear hunting licenses, and women made up 8% of the total with 802 holding bear tags. Last year, the numbers grew with women increasing to 1069 or 8.7% licenses sold out of 12,281 total.

in 2022, Maine would have between 40,500 and 45,500 bears. If you have trail cameras out in the spring, you may have been surprised to see a black bear walking by. Over the past three years, I have had bears on my cameras in the spring and fall.

We know that when women and moms hunt, their children are more likely to hunt as well. We need to continue to support and encourage women to add bear hunting to their annual licenses. Currently, women hold to more than 26,000 big game hunting licenses, higher than any point in the past twelve years. It would be incredible if we could get 10% of women who hold a big game license to also buy a

me and take me bear hunting so that I could learn about it, enjoy it and have a few successful seasons. There are guides like Bob Lento, who donate hunts to help get women and young kids interested in bear hunting. Working together, we can continue to support more women as they be-

the Professional Outdoor Media Association, Outdoor Writers Association of America and the New England Outdoor Writers Association. She is a senior writer for Drury Outdoors' DeerCast. You can read about Erin's adventures and contact her at www.andstrongcupofcoffee.com



The author with her first Maine black bear.

season and throughout the hunting season, people that I did not know bear hunted, were posting photos and updates of season's success. It was exciting to see so many bears and it had me wondering if it truly was my digital clicks or if more women really were hunting bear. Turns out, it's the growth in women hunters.

According to the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, in 2014, 769 (7.2%) women had bear hunting licenses out of 10,669 total bear hunters. In 2014, Maine went to the ballot box to protect all methods of bear hunting. The campaign was everywhere, and hunters were vocal about why it was so critical to allow bear hunting. 2014 was the first year I went bear hunting.

In 2018, 10,066 people held Maine bear hunting licenses, and women made up 8% of the total

every four years, but it is steady growth. We have netted three hundred more women, who are hunting bears in Maine. This is particularly significant as hunters in Maine are rapidly aging out of hunting and women face additional challenges (especially during bear season) with the increasing demands of fall school sports schedules.

Maine is currently the only state that allows bait, hounds, trapping, and still hunting for bears. When

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Maine Tails

By Jonah Paris,
Scarborough, ME

As I write this, the solstice is quickly approaching, and many strawberry farms here in Southern Maine will soon open their fields. Visiting the “U-Pick” farms has become something of an annual tradition. Green paper quart baskets, stained dark crimson along

to camp the last two week-ends of August. We time these trips deliberately. By late August, the fish are still eagerly slurping grasshopper flies, and in the high country of Western Maine, wild blackberry bushes are teeming with sweet, ripe, glossy fruit.

Ironically, berry picking - one of the most passive pursuits that an outdoorsman may engage in - triggers something decidedly primitive in the human psyche.

the edges, and overflowing with shiny conic berries are synonymous with the start of summer. But as much as I enjoy fresh strawberries and cream, strawberry rhubarb pie, and strawberry shortcake, wild fruit has a stronger appeal to me. Actually, thinking about it, “wild” anything has a stronger appeal to me, trout included.

For the past several years, Ashley, Aurora the Beagle, and I have gone up

There are a few scraggly blackberry bushes directly behind camp, almost pickable by reaching through the back windows. However, harvesting these berries hardly makes for an adventure. Aside from the occasional spontaneous pancake breakfast, the berry patch out back is reserved for the forest critters. Instead, we would rather hike to that berry patch jackpot, undoubtedly protected behind a veil of

thorns, and always hidden over the next mountain, down the next road, and behind the next bend.

We focus our efforts along the myriad of logging roads in the region. Blackberries and other brambles are a hallmark

Blackberry picking also allows me to scout for the upcoming hunting season. I am always looking and listening for grouse. I take note of where a thick berry patch grows adjacent to a tall stand of trees, and vow to revisit the area

or during the truck ride back to camp, or the next morning for breakfast, are stored. Along with venison and tomatoes from our garden, wild blackberries have become a staple in the chest freezer. During a heavy February blizzard, few things are more uplifting than a wild blackberry muffin from an August adventure, paired with a mug of dark coffee. Blackberry muffins are a promise of the warm summer days ahead. Blackberry pancakes are another favorite. In addition to making jam, blackberries can be reduced to make a sweet glaze, which pairs very well with venison and duck breast.

To my amusement, I have found that Aurora has developed her own method of blackberry picking. For a hound who eyes the contents of any trash can with unapologetic delight, Aurora is shockingly selective about her blackberries. She grades all berries by smell: A hard green berry will certainly be rejected, a light purple berry is a toss-up - fully dependent upon her mood, and a ripe black one will promptly disappear. To avoid digestive disaster, we must intervene when a moderate consumption quota is filled.

This month, lace up your hiking boots and find your own blackberry adventure. August in Maine is short and sweet.

A four-season outdoorsman, Jonah lives in Gorham, ME with his fiancée, Ashley, and beagle, Aurora. Jonah can be reached at jonaheparis@gmail.com



Wild blackberries from an August adventure.
(Photo courtesy of Jonah Paris)

of early forest succession, which occurs soon after cutting. With no tree canopy overhead, blackberry and raspberry canes quickly dominate the area after just a few years. Look for blackberry bushes along the perimeter of gravel roads, along skidder trails, in clearings, as well as interspersed between old slash piles. Berry patches support a wide range of life - from bees to bears, quite literally. Expect to pick under a constant hum and buzz.

come October.

Ironically, berry picking - one of the most passive pursuits that an outdoorsman may engage in - triggers something decidedly primitive in the human psyche. After foraging the earth for many millennia, we still feel gratification upon entering the woods with an empty container and returning home with a full one. We leave with something tangible, nutritious, and tasty.

Blackberries that are not eaten in the woods,

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Ode to Game Wardens

In the heart of Maine's
wild and vast terrain,
Where nature's beauty
thrives,
There roams a valiant
force, brave and true,

The guardians of the wild,
the Wardens of Maine.

In their black Danner
boots, they tread with
quiet grace,

Protectors of the land,
defenders of this wild
place,
They safeguard all
creatures and the
forests serene,
The guardians in green,
so often unseen.

In the deep woodlands
and rivers that flow,
They navigate the wild,
where the poacher's
secrets grow,
With knowledge honed
through years of toil,
They work, both day and
night to protect this soil.

With boundless passion,
they preserve and sustain,
For the fragile ecosystem,
they never refrain.
Enforcing the laws, for
the balance they seek,
Ensuring wildlife thrives,
this isn't for the meek.
Through rain and snow,
they march through the
night, Their compass
unwavering, their resolve
shining bright,
They guide lost souls with



Warden's Words

by Game Warden
Kale O'Leary,
Ashland, ME

a steady hand,
A trusted, timeless and
legendary band.

of this wild domain,
A testament to the land
they forever will sustain.

They educate the
wanderers, young and old,
Sharing their wisdom
with each story told,
For in their hearts, a deep
love is unfurled,
To instill respect, a
reverence for the natural
world.

So let us remember the
protectors of this land,
Their courage and
commitment, an eternal
brand.

The Wardens of Maine.

*Kale O'Leary has been
a Maine Game Warden
since January of 2016. He
is assigned to the Oxbow/
Masardis district in Cen-
tral Aroostook County and
lives in Ashland, Maine."*

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Wardens Garrett Moody and Maddie Killian
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EDITORIAL

Fields of Solar Panels

In Maine, in case you hadn't noticed, fields of solar panels are multiplying around the state like seagulls at a landfill. In 2021, there were a reported 3,500 sprawling photovoltaic solar installations on what were once open fields or forests. Reportedly, these solar installations generate about 300 megawatts of electricity for the power grid, or less than three percent of our state energy usage.

Like so many alternative energy sources, these solar development investments are driven by social concern about fossil fuel energy and incentivized by tax policy, tax credits.

In energy development, like so many other human endeavors, there is no free lunch. There is an ancillary cost/benefit factor associated with solar development that has nothing to do with bank loans and tax incentives. Like solar windmills rising above Maine's forested skyline, these rolling fields of solar panels are incongruous at best and, to some of us, downright ugly.

Apparently Mainers have reconciled themselves to the visual assault, for the

good of man and climate change mitigation. You don't hear much push back from Maine citizens.

What about these fields of solar panels? Will this runaway solar development continue until every field and forest edge in Maine is populated by these futuristic eyesores? These fields, by night, are critical grazing areas for all manner of wildlife. A fenced in solar farm displaces wildlife habitat significantly.

Recently, the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) testified in support of a bill, LD 1881, that is intended to address this issue.

This bill requires developers of solar energy projects to pay a compensation fee or pay for conservation efforts to mitigate adverse effects on prime agricultural soils or soils of statewide importance. It also requires developers of solar energy developments, wind energy developments or high-impact electric transmission lines to pay a compensation fee to fund off-site habitat improvement or preservation projects to mitigate the adverse effects of

a development on wildlife and fisheries habitats.

Here is part of Trahan's testimony: "Everything wild, uses fields at one time or another. To argue fencing in a 50 or 500-acre field does not harm wildlife is to ignore the fact that animals using these areas must travel greater distances because of fences, they must find new food sources, cross dangerous roads and simply must live in a smaller natural world. Whatever this committee does with this bill, there is no mistaking the impact of fenced solar development on our wildlife on forested and non-forested lands. I have no preference how this committee mitigates the impact of solar development on wildlife, but please do not underestimate how valuable farmland is as wildlife habitat."

"If I said to you, this committee could restore thousands of acres of prime wildlife habitat and open fields in less than a year, you might challenge me, I would respond by quoting President Ronald Reagan, 'tear down this wall.'"

-VPR



LETTERS



Catching the Moment

To the Editor:

As always, V. Paul Reynolds caught the mo-

ment perfectly with his article of what may be his last elk hunt. (Last Stand at Papa's Point, July issue, NWSJ).

I'm only 75..a real bad eye..luckily my left..a

torn rotator cuff..again on the left side..and a busted up big toe with an artificial joint..on the left foot..leaves me realizing my last hunts are on the horizon.

No, never did an elk hunt. Got close with a trip to Wyoming. Scouted the Breaks above the town of Rattlesnake in Montana. Tagged out on several caribou with the bow in Canada, fished the Kenai in Alaska and I'm 4 for 4 when drawn for the Maine moose hunt.

Yes, it's about memories: the camp near the Allagash, time with family and hours sitting in the stand. Hopefully I'll get out there till at least 81 and if so, I'll

think of your time at Papa's Point. Who knows, maybe I'll read about another hunt when you are 82, even if Di objects. Just don't tell her I said that!

I've enjoyed your writings from back in the days at the Bangor Daily News and look forward to more. Take care.

**Ben Brown
Freedom, NH**

Editor's note: Thanks, Ben. At our age, you just never know. Stay tuned!

Lead Ammo Ban

To the Editor:

In his July 2023 article, Tom Kelley incorrectly

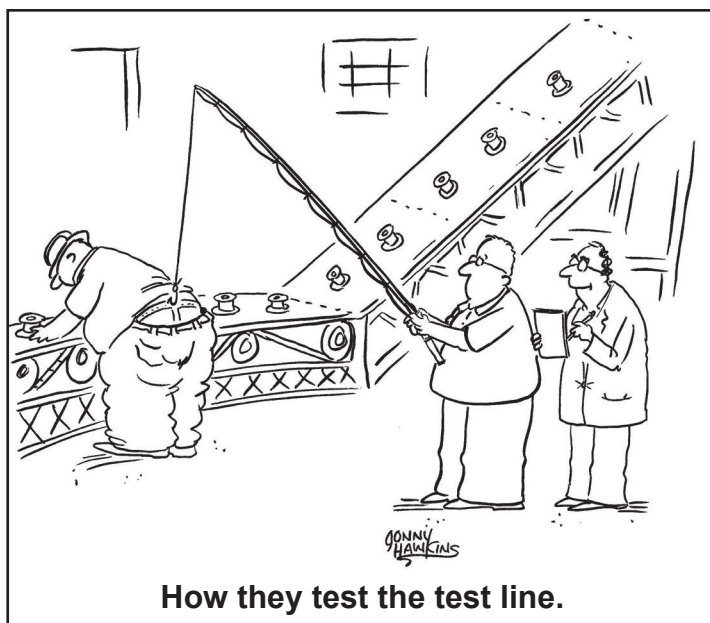
advised that "Recently, lead ammunition has been banned on all Federally owned properties."

This is not true!

The only recent changes include said requirements on 8 Federal refuges in the country, according to our USF&W Special Agent via Col. Justin Steadman of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, State Game Warden division.

You should issue a correction article ASAP!

**Douglas Lawrence,
Vt. District Chief
Game Warden
- Retired.**



How they test the test line.

Fishing Washout Brookies

The number of gravel roads that got washed out this past spring should have been a record. It seems that every back road I traveled looking for wild turkeys had either a washout detour or crews were in the process of replacing culverts. While that may seem disastrous, brook trout anglers

Add to this newfound trout water the fact that, in Maine, most brook trout angling ceases by mid-May when the striped bass and inland bass fishing heats up. The black flies, mosquitos and streamside brush makes it inhospitable for all but the diehard trout anglers.

num length of six inches. Between August 16 and the close of the season only one brook trout is allowed and one landlocked salmon (14-inch minimum).

Finding these new hotspots is relatively easy. During the spring or summer, make notes of mark location on your Maine Atlas and Gazetteer. Follow the brook either upstream or down to find access



South Of the Kennebec

by Stu Bristol,
Lyman, ME

found in the tail-outs facing upstream.

Cast a small lure or fly upstream and mend the line in the same manner you would when dead-drifting a nymph in the spring. Stay low and don't make too much noise positioning yourself in the stream.

Mickey Finn, Banes Special Black Ghost etc. each in small sizes, preferably size 12-14 or smaller and terrestrials such as black ants and others.

My brook fishing setup is a jury-rigged broken top section of a fly rod seated into the bottom handle.

Past history has shown this to be a bonanza for anglers following a stream crossing the turnpike to the nearest access road. The same will hold true, I am sure, when it comes to replaced bridges and culverts along secondary and gravel roads.

roads. Note that pedestrian traffic and parking is not allowed anywhere on the Maine Turnpike.

Hopefully the walk to the new bridge or culvert is not too long or bug infested but I'm confident the trip will be well worth the effort.

When fishing a small brook or stream anytime, I suggest beginning at a downstream entry point and work your way upstream. Especially in low water conditions in late fall when fish are usually

Fish will be very wary at this time of year especially from any shadows from above (hawks etc.)

Typical fall fly selections should work well.

I use a single action fly reel with about 25 feet of floating flyline and a couple feet of light fluorocarbon leader. No need for long (Brookies cont. pg 11)



New culvert pool

are being handed a bonanza of outstanding trout pools.

I've written many times in the past about the reconstruction work done all along Interstate 95 (Maine Turnpike) and other paved highways. To build or repair aging bridges or culverts the section of river with side of the construction receives a modern face lift.

The stream channel is usually deepened to allow more water flow and the river banks often get a covering of blasted rock. (rip-rap) Within the next year the pool created will become home of some of the larger more dominant brook trout.

Past history has shown this to be a bonanza for anglers following a stream crossing the turnpike to the nearest access road. The same will hold true, I am sure, when it comes to replaced bridges and culverts along secondary and gravel roads.

Maine law allows for general angling regulations (open water) from January 1 through August 15. From August 15 to September 30 the streams are still open to fishing but anglers are restricted to artificial lures and flies only. All brook and stream fishing becomes closed from October 1 through March 31.

General law provides for a bag or creel limit of 5 brook trout with a mini-



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3.5 lb. Brook Trout

"A Hiker's Life"

by Carey Kish,
Mt. Desert Island, ME



Beer Hiking New England features 50 great hikes and craft breweries from around the region. On this selected adventure, visit one of the finest alpine summits in the White Mountains, then descend into Woodstock for great food and drink at lively Woodstock Inn Brewery.

Mt. Moosilauke is the 10th highest and most westerly of the 48 peaks over 4,000 feet in the 750,000-acre White Mountain National Forest of New Hampshire. The 4,802-foot mountain features an extensive alpine zone and far-reaching panoramic vistas ranging from the Kinsman Range, Franconia Range and Presidential Range in the Whites to Vermont's Green Mountains and beyond to the Adirondacks in New York.

This hike ascends Mt. Moosilauke via the Gorge Brook Trail, the easiest (a relative term; it's still a strenuous hike) and most popular route up the mountain. The Gorge Brook Trail begins near Moosilauke Ravine Lodge, a large and beautiful log structure owned by Dartmouth College and operated by the Dartmouth Outing Club.

From the treeless, windswept summit, you'll follow the Moosilauke Carriage Road across the high, vista-rich ridgeline to a spur leading to the 4,523-foot South Peak, a worthwhile side trip for a great look back to the main summit. This section of the Carriage Road is part of the famous 2,192-mile AT, which extends from Georgia to Maine. The carriage road was built in

the 1870s to serve the Tip Top House (long gone) on the mountain's summit. The descent continues on the Carriage Road, then follows the Snapper Trail

alpine zone is very fragile. The name Moosilauke is derived from the Abenaki language and means "bald place." The reason for this name will become crystal

owned and operated since it opened in 1982 as a small inn and restaurant, Woodstock Inn added a brewery in 1995, and today this lively, eclectic spot is one



(an old ski trail) back to the Gorge Brook Trail to complete a fine circuit of 8 miles.

Moosilauke hikers should be well prepared for possible harsh weather in the areas above the timberline. Take care to follow the trail markers and not to stray from the rocky path, as the vegetation in the

clear once you're on top and enjoying the incredible 360-degree view.

Situated in the heart of North Woodstock, not far from famed Franconia Notch, Woodstock Inn Brewery bills itself as a basecamp of sorts where adventurous visitors are encouraged to "Eat. Drink. Stay. Repeat." Family

of the most popular hangouts in the White Mountains. The super drinkable Pig's Ear Brown Ale is the brewery's original creation and its flagship beer among a diverse menu of mountain-themed brews. Enjoy a flight or a pint and some excellent eats outdoors, either streetside or on the patio, or in one of four comfy indoor bar and pub areas.



Coastal

Caribou Area



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Carey Kish of Mount Desert Island, ME is a die-hard hiker and dedicated beer enthusiast. When he's not on the trail or on a bar stool, you might be able to catch him at maineoutdoors@aol.com on Facebook, and on Instagram @careykish

Bears

(Cont. from pg 3)

gun. Heavier is better.

Something in the 290 to 300 grain area. A heavier bullet might have a slower velocity but in bait and short range bear hunting situations typical here in Maine that slower speed is inconsequential. What the heavier bullets does is pack more energy on impact and depending on construction deeper and more devastating penetration and internal damage. That's what you want on bears.

Of course, a lot has to do with bullet construction. Personally, I like and prefer full bore lead .50-cal bullets. They shoot well out my rifle, have good ballistic coefficient and based on my experience pack a punch, penetrate, expand and hold together well and create a big wound channel. When a bear gets whacked it knows it and with proper shot placement few have gone far.

No doubt the "best muzzleloader bear bullet" discussion will go on and won't be settled here. It is often what makes bear camp interesting and sometimes entertaining. Just keep in mind black bears are not deer. A light muzzleloader bullet is apt to get the job done but a heavier bullet is generally better, and as always shot placement is key.

Al Raychard and his wife Diane live on 43 +/- acres in Lyman, Maine that offers good deer and turkey hunting opportunities which they both enjoy. If the property had a trout stream it would be true paradise. Al can be reached at alraychard@sacoriver.net

Brookies

(Cont. from pg 9)

casts and back casts that catch bushes.

My rod handle has two winds of white electrician tape to indicate legal length limits to avoid having to search out a tape measure or ruler. In the

later portion of the season my goal is to bring home the largest brookies I can find, making it important to release smaller fish without taking them out of the water.

Without a doubt there are more productive fishing spots (lakes, ponds, rivers) to fish in late fall but finding a brand new, deep

water pool where there never was one and realizing the big fish potential of these hotspots is worth the anglers time. Springtime road washouts may be a nuisance to drivers but they sure offer a bonus to brook trout anglers.

Stu Bristol is a Master Maine Hunting, Fish-

ing and Tidewater Guide. (Orion Guide Service) His books and articles have been published nationwide for more than 60 years. He was inducted into the New England Wild Turkey Hunting Hall of Fame in 2019 and operates the Deadly Imposter Game Call Company. www.deadlyimpostergamecalls.com

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Outdoor News - August 2023

Edited by V. Paul Reynolds

Late summer offers many options in the Maine outdoors. It is also a time to prepare for the coming season. What's available to us now, coupled with the anticipation of what follows in the fall, will keep us very busy if we're to be part of it.

The July Hex hatch is a fading memory. Dog days of August lull us into lazy reverie. We lounge on the porch, waiting until evening to go out on the lake for a bucketful of perch, or to fish past sunset for smallmouth bass. Tomorrow, maybe a daybreak troll for salmon and togue. Sure. There's plenty of fishing left. But it's not too early to sight in a deer rifle or spend some time on the skeet range to get the cobwebs out of our shooting skills.

The anticipation of fall is tinged with a growing sense of urgency. The first August night that you need another blanket snaps you to attention. You drew a moose permit this year? Have you started scouting where you'll hunt? Are you hunting bears? Is your bait supply rounded up? Are your stands in order? Still going to practice with the bow, before deer season, like you promised yourself last year?

When the September rains come, brookies and landlocks that have sulked in deep water will show up in feeder streams as they migrate to spawn. Then, like their fall spawning colors, they'll be gone. There are fall hatches of small olive mayflies to anticipate, and the woodcock often arrive when the autumn trout

fishing is at its peak. How about a New England "Cast 'n Blast" with a partridge hunt in the morning and rising trout in the afternoon?.

You didn't fix that leak in your waders yet? Better get to it. The water's gonna get cold again! Time to oil the guns, maybe tie a few flies, too. But don't take out the hunting vest yet. The dog will go nuts!



Maine Doe Lottery

You will be able to enter into the Maine Antlerless Deer Permit Lottery using this online service. From the list of lottery applicants, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will administer a chance drawing to select winners for a Maine Antlerless Deer Hunting Permit.

Please note: you may only supply the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with one application for the lottery per year; if it is found that an applicant has applied more than one time in a year, that applicant will be disqualified.

Applications must be completed by 11:59 pm (ET) on August 1, 2023.

A chance drawing will be held on August 15, 2023.

Massachusetts Woman Dies In ATV Crash

The Maine Warden Service is investigating a fatal ATV accident in Coplin Plantation.

At approximately 12:45 July 1, the Maine Warden was called to an ATV crash on An ATV trail near the Quill Hill Road in Coplin.

Abigail Divoll, age 25, of Royalston, Mass. was a passenger in a side by side ATV driven by Matthew Tolman, age 26 of Hubbardstown, Mass.

The pair were in the lead ATV in a group of three ATVS when they struck a washout on the trail and lost control of the ATV. Tolman was thrown from the ATV and suffered a serious head injury, and Divoll was killed in the crash.

Tolman was flown from the scene in a life-flight helicopter to Maine Medical Center in Portland. Neither Divoll or Tolman were wearing helmets. It appears that speed and alcohol may have been a factor in the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the Maine Warden Service. Any more details will be released as they become available.

Fishing Reg Changes

Proposals to update the inland fishing laws for 2024 are now open for public comment. These regulations are needed to provide for the effective conservation of Maine's inland fisheries and to enhance fishing opportunities throughout the state. This year there are two separate rulemaking packets. One includes 24 individual proposals broken down into "theme" categories and the

other addresses updates to Fishing Derby and Bass Tournament Rules. The proposals, if adopted, will become effective January 1, 2024.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the proposals and provide input by submitting written comments via mail or email to the contact person for this filing or by participating in the public hearing.

For more information on these proposals, how to submit comments via mail or email, or information on the time and location of the public hearing please visit: maine.gov/ifw/news-events/rulemaking-proposals.html

Note: All written comments are given equal consideration to testimony given at the public hearing. All comments must be related to the specific proposals in these rulemaking packets.

Just a quick FYI to keep everyone up-to-date



on proposed regulation changes in the Moosehead Lake Region.

The ME IFW is proposing new regulations on bass on the following waters in this area:

Sebec Lake, Dover-Foxcroft, Bowerbank, and Willimantic

Harlow/Manhannock Pds, Parkman and Sangerville

Indian Pd, Sapling Twp and Indian Stream Twp

The proposals include changing the current regulations on bass to: No size or bag limit on bass.

There is also a proposal to modify the rules pertaining to bass fishing tournaments.

There is also a proposal to clarify regulations regarding the areas on Moosehead Lake that are closed to fishing during the ice fishing season. This proposal clarifies that these areas are still closed to fishing, if they are ice-free during the winter months.

You can view all the proposals at :

https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/Ch%201_1-A%20Fishing%20Regulations%20Proposals%202024.pdf

Black Bear Bites Porter Woman

The Maine Warden Service is investigating an incident where a black bear bit a Porter women after she punched the bear.

At approximately 11:30 a.m. in late June 64-year-old Lynn Kelly of Porter was out working in her garden in her back yard when her dog started barking and took off into the woods. Kelly heard her dog continue to bark then yelp, and when she went to investigate, her dog came running out of the woods, being chased by a black bear.

Kelly confronted the bear head on, and when the bear stood up, she stood up as tall as she could, then punched the bear in the nose, whereupon the bear

(News cont. pg 14)

Bear Baiting Begins

The big boar's huge head materialized from the jack firs and he sniffed the air while looking in my direction. A light breeze was wafting in my face, but my camo and the net-

I lowered my bow and walked out to get help from my old retired Marine Corps friend Bud who taught me how to bait bears and let me hunt on his land. My friend Darrell also arrived to help

in the search in the moonless darkness. We found my broken arrow with string still attached only 20 yards from the bait. The huge bear was dead 30 yards further down the bear trail. We admired his big wide head and rolled him over to find a perfect

white V marking on his chest. After attaching my tag, it was a struggle for three of us to drag him the 50 yards to my pickup. The tagging stations were closed so I called the local warden to get permission to register the bear the next morning. The boar bottomed the scale out at 350 lbs and the skull later measured 18-9/16" qualifying for both Pope and Young and Maine Skull and Antler Clubs.

As my wife and I ready our bear baits this month, I reflect back on Bud teaching me all about bear baiting in 1991. He owned hundreds of acres of prime bear habitat in Jonesboro with his wife Betty. Darrell had introduced me to them and Bud asked if I wanted to kill a big bear over bait. I had shot two bears under 200 lbs previously on spot and stalk

hunts, but knew nothing about baiting. Bud had a bait set near his camp with a barrel and meat scraps from a local butcher. I did not bowhunt then but on the third night of hunting shot a big boar with my 30-06 that bottomed out Bud's 300 lb scale. I finally had a big bear for a rug mount.

In 1992, I bought a bow then arrowed a buck and a turkey on my first ever bowhunt in New Hampshire. Despite many sits on stand I did not harvest a bear that fall. I harvested my first archery bear, a 150 lb boar with a white V in 1993 and followed up with a 250 lb boar the following year on Bud's land. He had started to add sweet stuff like honey comb and crude molasses to the baits to entice more bears. I obtained permission on nearby blueberry growers land in the area and my family and several friends took their

first archery bears on my baits.

Eventually I started baiting closer home on other blueberry farmers lands using expired donuts and sweets from bake shops. In recent years we have been buying barrels of trail mix or mixed nuts from a

bears chew on them and look forward to checking them every other day. We get written permission to bait on private land behind locked gates to mitigate interference from other bear hunters. To all bear hunters this year, have a safe and enjoyable season and hope



ting around my tree stand worked. He moved to the bait barrel that was placed so I would have a broadside shot with my bow. When he stuck his big noggin inside, I drew my bow and placed the 20 yard pin behind the shoulder then triggered the release.

The Muzzy tipped Easton arrow with string tracker attached smashed through a rib then passed through both lungs. The bear woofed and ran back in the trail with dental floss type string playing out from the spool on my bow. After a few seconds the string stopped and I could not hear any more heavy footfalls. There was no death moan from the bear, only the sounds of my heartbeat and heavy breathing. I had previously arrowed two other bears from the same area but this bear was much bigger.



The Northwoods Bowhunter

by Brian Smith,
Machiasport, ME



Brian Smith is a retired Maine State Police Detective and NRA Field Representative. He was presented the Maine Bowhunters Association Largest Archery Bear and Bowhunter of the Year awards twice. He currently serves on the SAM-ILA and MBA Boards and can be reached at bowhunter@mgemaine.com

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News

(Cont. from pg 12)

bit her in the right hand, puncturing her wrist. The bear immediately released her wrist, then ran back into the woods, leaving Kelly and her unharmed dog behind.



Kelly called 911, and was transported to Memorial Hospital in North Conway by ambulance, where she was treated for

puncture wounds to her wrist.

The bear has not been seen since the provoked attack. The Department has set two live-capture culvert-style traps to try and capture the bear alive. The bear had been seen in previous days in nearby yards eating bird-seed that had been left outside.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife reminds people that black bears can be found throughout the state, and to:

Remove potential wildlife attractants from your yard

If bears have been

seen in your area, do not wait to remove potential food sources from your yard

Attractants can include bird feeders, bird seed on the ground, unsecured garbage, pet food and even barbecue grills.

If you do see a bear, keep your distance, and do not corner or agitate the bear

If you are a dog owner and have seen a bear in your neighborhood, please walk your dog on a non-retractable leash.

If you see a bear, turn around and leave.

Do not get in between your dog and a bear.

Turn any outside lights on before letting your dog outside at night.

New Hampshire Doe Permits



Hunters with a current New Hampshire hunting license who want the chance to take additional antlerless deer in Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) L during the fall hunting seasons will soon be able to apply for a special permit on-

line. These permits were issued through an online lottery, and the application period will run July 10–23. Hunters should note the specific details about applying for these two different permits. **Unit L Permits are available online only.** Alternatively, hunters may purchase a Unit M Permit beginning July 24. Both of these WMUs are located in southeastern New Hampshire.

Unit L Permits will be distributed through an online lottery. A two-week application period will **open on July 10 at 9:00 a.m.** and will be administered online only at nhfishandgame.com. The application period will close on July 23 at midnight. There will be no application fee to enter the lottery. **On August 3, applicants will be randomly drawn** and notified by email regarding their selection status. Those who do not receive an email confirmation should call (603) 271-2743 for more information. Hunters who are selected may then visit the NHFG licensing site on August 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to purchase their Unit L Permit. **Lottery winners will have until midnight on Thursday, August 31, to purchase their permit.**

Hunters can visit www.huntnh.com/hunting/deer-ul-permits.html for more details on how to apply for these permits. Up to 3,000 hunters will be allowed to purchase Special Antlerless Deer Permits for Unit L this year. These permits all come

(News cont. pg 30)

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Lake Smelt Streamer Fly

This fly pattern was one of Jim Warner's, and for those of you who don't know who Jim was I will explain. Jim was considered the fly tyer who put Lake Winnepesaukee on the radar of anglers looking for big trout and land locked salmon in New Hampshire. Many of his fly patterns are still used today with great

Then the pattern took a drastic and positive change. The wing kept its 4 feathers but the colors changed. The inside wing was two white, the middle feather was salmon pink and the outer feather was iron bronze blue dun. It was the outer wing color that would eventually mothball this fly.

get the shade correct and because of that Jim stopped tying this fly. In my researching this pattern I was able to obtain a photo of the fly and the iron bronze blue dun color. I also was able to read through some of the notes and history that Jim had written about the pattern and his description on this color.

Having a relationship with a feather company helps and I used it to begin



Slipstream

By Scott Biron,
London, NH

I began by tying one of these and then taking it for a troll in a Maine lake last fall. We were not out from shore far enough to put down the trolling plate when I had 25 feet of line out and the strike on the fly was massive. Unfortunately, I did not land the

times silver tinsel double wrapped, this is my preferred body)

Throat: Sparse white bucktail as long as the hook bend (less is more)

Underwing: 3-4 peacock herls

Wing: 2 white sad-

The fly's short lifespan was because of the inability of feather dyers at the time to reproduce the color. It is very difficult to get the shade correct and because of that Jim stopped tying this fly.

my quest to get the feathers dyed correctly. The difficulty was the bronze shading. The iron blue would overpower the bronze and make it virtually invisible. I knew when Ewing began dying these it might take a handful of tries. The first three attempts had no bronze at all. The next attempts lost the iron blue.

I remember in Jim's notes he said the color was close to a gray ghost that had been fished and its coloring had faded. I reached in my trolling fly box and found a gray ghost I had fished and was losing its color. That fly helped to get the correct coloring, we had it!

fish, but it was large and I was lectured by my friends to never tie just one of a pattern. In my defense I was testing it.

This spring armed with a dozen of the Lake Smelts I began trolling and having success. I gave a few of the patterns to other anglers and also taught a few fly tying classes that included this pattern. Reports back were all that the fly worked very well.

Hook: Partridge Heritage Streamer Hook CS5/9X or CS15 #2-4

Body: Silver gray floss with a narrow silver tinsel rib, (some-

dles, then a salmon pink with the iron blue bronze dun on the outside

Topping: Black ostrich herl (the original was silver pheasant crest but he combination of being difficult to find and with so few long this was phased out)

Eyes: Medium sized jungle cock

Head: Black

I have a good friend that often reminds me that "In The End it's Up To The Fish". He's 100% correct but I like to think the Lake Smelt ups my chances and that I somehow am bringing this old pattern back to life.



The Lake Smelt Streamer fly.

effectiveness. His patterns often used marabou as its main material, which he felt gave his flies a more life like appearance when fished.

The Lake Smelt pattern was one that did not contain marabou and would be considered a traditional feather-wing fly. The fly's history begins in 1957 and the original pattern had a 4 feather wing of two white saddles and two black on the outside. The black saddles had little webbing so the white would show through.

Jim said that he was given some feathers with the iron bronze blue dun coloring by a friend. He began tying the fly (see recipe) and it became very popular. Why wouldn't it be? It has the coloring of a smelt and the topping of silver pheasant crest (eventually changed to black ostrich herl) adds the coloring that most northern New England smelt possess.

The fly's short lifespan was because of the inability of feather dyers at the time to reproduce the color. It is very difficult to

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The Adventures of Me and Joe

by Bob Cram,
(Alias T.J. Coongate)
Medway, ME

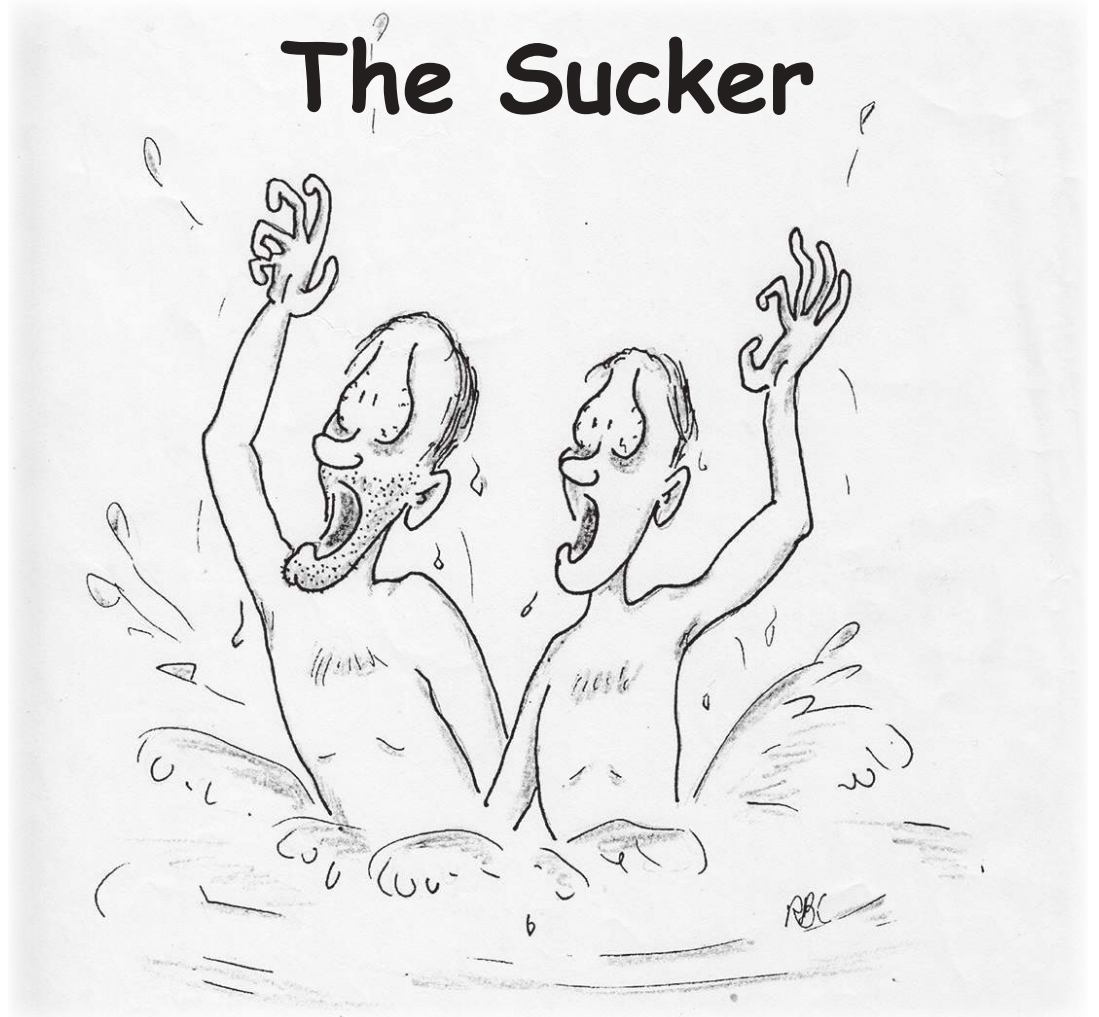
It's amazing how a whole series of events can happen separate from one another, without any of the participants being aware of the other parts of the drama, and still have the whole thing come together in one harshly grating finale. For me and Joe, the whole deal started with the hump-backed trout. For the state and the Canadian Province of Quebec, it started with a vicious criminal. By the time the whole episode ended, me and Joe had the scare of our lives, banked a bundle of cash, and the minions of the law went away mumbling. It happened something like this.

Agents of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police pounded their way along back roads and logging traces, finally drawing up in a cloud of dust at St. Pamphile on the Maine/Quebec border. There, members of the U.S. Border Patrol and officers of the Maine Warden Service met them. As the whole entourage set

out once more, this time along the back roads of Maine's Allagash country, Warden Pinch Brody sat in a Border Patrol W.U.V. and listened to R.C.M.P. Inspector Crown explain the situation.

"The fugitive's name is Gaston Le Poisson, but his nickname is Sucker. He murdered a bank teller holding up the Quebec City branch of the Northern National Bank and lit out for the U.S. Border. This is a file photo we have of him from an arrest a couple of years ago for purse snatching." The picture showed a thin, slightly stooped man with long, straggly blond hair that reached his shoulders. He stared sullenly at the camera.

"What makes you think he crossed the border somewhere near here?" asked Border Patrol Agent Gaylord Stern as he wheeled the vehicle around hairpin turns, enveloping the following vehicles in a dense cloud of fine dust.



Then, suddenly, the sun merged from hiding and its bright rays turned the pool as bright and clear as a fishbowl. The first thing I saw was a massive trout struggling at the end of a tangled line. Then, to my immediate horror, I saw what the line was tangled around.

"He left the stolen vehicle he'd been using on the outskirts of St. Pamphile, out of gas," Crown replied. "We got a call from Warden Brody, here, saying he thought Le Poisson had crossed into Maine."

"A pickup truck was stolen from a fishing camp on Big Black River just ahead," Brody contributed. "We found the truck abandoned near the shores of Slewgundy Lake, just out-

side the village of Mooseleuk. The front seat of the truck was littered with crème horn wrappers."

"Sucker Le Poisson is known to have a sweet tooth for crème horns," Inspector Crown broke in. "Unfortunately, Warden Brody tells me there was no sign of either the fugitive or the heavy steel box full of cash that he took from the bank."

Brody nodded his

head. "All we can do is branch out from the point where we found the abandoned pickup and try to find his trail."

The day before, me and Joe had been fishing Slewgundy Stream about a half-mile below where it emptied out of Slewgundy Lake. As we drove up to Joe's cabin that evening, all he could talk about was the lunker trout he'd lost in

(Me & Joe cont. pg 19)

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Jeremiah Lucey
(Marty was found
on pg 27)

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Places We Hunt: Bogs or Heaths?

From all reports, the legendary Maine Guide, like so many of our institutions, is undergoing profound change. The Maine Guide of yore was simply

Game Warden decided, from a short chat, that an applicant was fit to be a Maine Guide. Today, more and more of our Registered Maine Guides get their

gether bad and is in keeping with the times. Veteran guides have been known to scoff while making the observation that many of these new "school-taught" guides just wanted to get a guide's patch for their wool jackets and have no plans

The word is "heath." Regardless of what Webster may say, all Maine woodsman and seasoned Maine Guides pronounce this word "hayth," not "heeth" as far too many newly licensed Maine Guides seem to be doing.

to guide for a living. So? It does take some smarts and commitment to pass the test, and anyone who makes the grade has a reason to be proud of his or her accomplishment.

It does strike me, though, that there is a conspicuous and glaring gap in the curriculum of most of the new training programs for aspiring Maine Guides.

These new Maine Guides, especially those who grew up in Newark or White Plains, all mispronounce a critical word used by all Maine Guides. The word is "heath." Regardless of

part of your guide lexicon. Say again, "Joe, you work your way slowly around the south side of that "hayth" and I'll meet you at about noon on the north end of the hummock."

Speaking of a Maine Guide's lexicon, any guide worth his salt will always use, not only the Maine pronunciation, but also know the subtle distinctions in the definitions of unique geological locales. Here are some must-know woods places that all Maine Guides should be familiar with:

(Places cont. pg 21)



Illustrations by V. Paul Reynolds

a woods-savvy individual who had hunted and fished enough to know how to show others the way for a few bucks a day. The early Maine Guides never took a test. Most of them got their licenses after a Maine

guide's license by taking formal instruction and then passing a series of written and oral tests administered by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Now this is not alto-



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Outdoor Sporting Library



by Jeremiah Wood,
Ashland, ME

Since its beginning, America has been defined by frontiers. As soon as the first settlements were established a slow, steady westward expansion began, and generations of Americans could always rely on a new land to explore and

country such an incredible economic and technological success.

What happens when frontiers run out? It's an important question because unless a society completely crumbles, frontiers run their course. It starts with

**What happens when frontiers run out?
It's an important question because
unless a society completely crumbles,
frontiers run their course.**

settle in search of better opportunity and a brighter future.

While continued expansion into new frontiers caused instability and other negative impacts to society, it also developed character, grit, fierce independence and adaptability that still shape our culture today. It may be what made this

hunters, trappers and explorers discovering lands and blazing trails – the buffalo hunters of the plains and beaver trappers of the Rocky Mountain West. Then come the homesteaders – farmers and ranchers who work to tame the wild lands and grow crops and livestock. Inevitably, towns are formed at the center of

these farming areas. Then come local government, laws, rules – 'civilization', if you will. It is then up to those of us with wildness in our blood and strong independent streaks to go out and find new frontiers. Our continued economic, social and cultural development has always depended on the presence of a frontier.

We risked running out of frontier once, and then we bought Alaska. And though areas of that vast land have been settled and property lines have been drawn up on maps, much of the state still resembles the old frontier.

In the 1970's and 80's, the state of Alaska undertook an ambitious effort to foster the development of a small portion of this great frontier. It was called the Delta Barley Project, and resulted in the sale of tens of thousands of acres of land at dirt cheap

prices for the purposes of agricultural development. It was a unique chance for farmers to convert virgin forests to productive farmland – an opportunity that hadn't been available in other parts of the country for more than a century. The farmers who took on this challenge were a hardy bunch, mostly from the Midwest and western states of the Lower 48. Most didn't have a great deal of opportunity back home. Land was limited and expensive, they had little access to capital, or other family members were ahead of them in taking over the family farm. So they journeyed to Alaska to clear land and carve something out of the frontier.

The state had high ambitions for the Delta project. The plan was to develop a grain growing agricultural center focused primarily on barley, which grows well in northern climates with short growing seasons, use it to feed livestock and export it to markets overseas. Like most government projects, it didn't work out exactly as planned. After a few years of failure, politicians and bureaucrats quickly lost interest, leaving the farmers who pioneered this frontier pretty much on their own. Many gave up, but a surprising number stuck it out, and have carved out niche markets

in grain and livestock that sustain families and a small but thriving farming community on the outskirts of the town of Delta Junction.

Last year, more than four decades after Delta project, the state again initiated an agricultural land sale. This one focused on 2,000 acres of a planned 100,000 acre farming project near the town of Nena, just west of Fairbanks. Incorporating lessons from the Delta project's shortcomings, the plan focuses on a slower moving, phased and adaptive approach to be implemented over the next three decades. The goal is to increase food security and encourage local agriculture that feeds Alaskans. Whether it proves to achieve that goal is anyone's guess, but I'm quite certain it will result in a few more brave souls willing to risk it on the edge of the next frontier.

As society continues to develop and grow, pressures will increase to push on to new frontiers. Which raises an important question: will we run out of frontiers? And an equally important question: What implications does this have for society, and particularly for those of us who are drawn to its edges? Only time will tell.

Jeremiah can be reached at jrodwood@gmail.com



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Me & Joe

(Cont. from pg 16)
the pool below Extinction Falls.

"I'm tellin' ya, that trout'll go five pounds if he's an ounce!"

"Well, I don't know... of course, I didn't see him."

"Well I did!" Joe fumed, turning red. "Come right clear of the surface! Had him a humped back an' a big hooked jaw."

"You sure it was a trout?" I grinned as we walked into the camp and dumped a limit of cleaned brook trout into the sink. "Lotta big fallfish in that stream."

"Fallfish!?" Joe belated. "You think I don't know a trout from a fallfish!? Why, I..." He saw the look on my face and subsided. Suddenly, he grinned. "All right, you got me that time. But that was a monster trout. We're goin' back there tomorrow an' I'll have 'im if it's the last thing I do."

As I set the trout to sizzling in salt pork fat, Joe began going through his fly box, looking for just the right lure to entice the big trout. Tomorrow would be another warm, sunny day and it would feel good to wade in the cool waters of Slewgundy Stream.

By afternoon of the next day the law enforcement officers had assembled around the abandoned truck near Slewgundy Lake.

"It's pretty dry going here, for tracking," Warden Brody said to the other five law enforcement officers. "I've got a call in for the bloodhounds from Ashland, but it'll be a while before they get here."

"'Bout time you ociffers shown up!" A short, grizzled old man

came puffing through the alders from the direction of the lake. "Now yew kin git about findin' my canoe!"

"Lem? Lem Tactless? Is that you?" Warden Brody scowled down at the old man, who scowled right back. "What's this about a canoe?"

"A course it's me!" Tactless snorted. "Whadaya mean 'what canoe'? I calt warden headquarters in Ashland this very mornin'! Some sneakin' varmint up an' stole my 16-foot canoe. I want it back right this minnit! Want the whole power an' resources uv the state brought ter bear!"

"Show me where this canoe was located." Brody barked at Tactless. He turned to the other men. "Looks like Sucker stole the canoe and headed across the lake. We'll have to get a boat and go after him. There's a sporting camp on the other side with plenty of vehicles for him to steal."

An hour later, toward the lower part of the lake, the searching party spotted the bow of a green canoe just showing above the water's surface. Pulling close with the big 16-foot boat, they came upon a swamped canoe drifting with the slight breeze.

"That's her! That's my canoe!" Lem Tactless bellowed. "Look what that varmint done! Swamped 'er. Got 'er all waterlogged. You better ketch him afore I do! I hope they's cap'tal punishment!"

"I don't think you need to worry about it, Mr. Tactless," Inspector Crown said slowly. "It looks to me like Sucker Le Poisson met with some misfortune."

"There was a brisk wind all morning," Brody agreed. "Looks like he couldn't hold her in the

waves. Must have cap-sized. We'll have to get more boats and the divers out to find the body."

"And the way the canoe's drifted, we'll probably never find that steel box with the money," Crown said morosely.

At about the same time me and Joe had reached the pool below Extinction Falls.

"Less jist sneak up on the shoreline," Joe said in a whisper as he crouched low.


I smiled. "Maybe I should try for him this time...you know...just for a change."

"Jist never you mind!" Joe hissed. At the shoreline, he made a pair of false casts and sent a caddis emerger drifting onto the surface of the pool. Almost immediately there came a heavy splash as a huge trout rose to engulf the fly. Joe set the hook and the fight was on.

For ten minutes the trout tore up and down the pool, threatening to head down the rapids at the outlet, while Joe fought to turn each run. Finally the big fish bore deep into the pool just below the falls.

A worried look came


(Me & Joe cont. pg 25)




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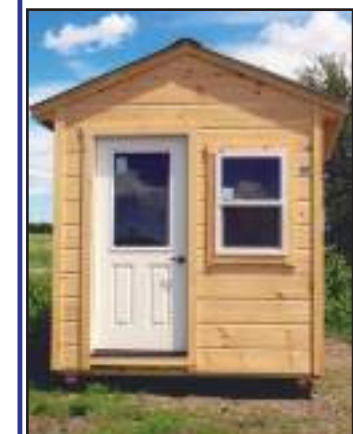
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Aroostook Woods & Water

by Mike Maynard,
Perham, ME

Normally at this point in the season, October being so close and all, I can almost taste it. Grouse are whispering sweet nothings in my one good ear. But not this year; I'm not hearing it, not yet anyway. For some reason, I've been struck with a raging case of buck

And it isn't just the bucks that have gone missing, it's the does as well. I'm not seeing anywhere near the number of deer that I did just a year ago. Trail cameras are devoid of images, save the occasional rabbit and the fisher that must have been hot on his tail.

Although there isn't a wealth of deer to choose from, the fact that I can still get so wound up about the coming of another fall, another season in the woods, pleases me to no end.

fever; it's been this way since at least June. It's hard to get a hefty dose of buck fever this far north in the County; there just aren't a lot of bucks to get all that hot and bothered about. Half a deer per square acre makes looking for a needle in a haystack seem like child's play by comparison. Not many deer period, this year. Look at the WMU map for the any-deer lottery; the only areas open are six (6) and three (3). At least I'm conveniently located -my house is in six and my mailbox is in three.

But no deer, and only one moose all spring and into the summer. Depressing.

There are a handful of does that live here in the area, five of them. The same family group is here every year, always with fawns in tow. This year, only one of the 5 has a fawn, the others apparently never got bred. This is a worry. I can almost always count on a couple of juvenile bucks to show up in late spring, spend a week or so in my back field, cavorting and running around, acting like teenag-

ers. Not this summer. No tracks, no sign, no nothing. So why am I all jittery with anticipation this year? Talking to neighbors and other denizens of the deep woods, they all tell the same tale of woe: no deer. And yet, I've already gone through all my pre-season rituals. Tree stands are checked and resecured, shooting lanes are cleared again. This year's rifle of choice has been decided

upon and sighting it in has already been done. I'm ready to go, ...*NOW*. Buck fever, it's what's for dinner.

Although there isn't a wealth of deer to choose from, the fact that I can still get so wound up about the coming of another fall, another season in the woods, pleases me to no end. I am monumentally grateful to all concerned that the gods have allowed me to bask in the kaleidoscope of riotous colors, the frosty mornings, the smells of a forest settling in for another long and arduous winter.

Buck Fever

In Greek mythology there is a muse named Calliope, she's in charge of epic poetry. After a lifetime of deer hunting, every season is completely different, you can make the argument that the deer hunting life is in itself, epic poetry. Of course,


Tough chick.

Over my second pot of coffee the other morning, it suddenly occurred to me that I needed far more trail cameras in the woods. Off to the barn I ran. Throwing stuff left and right, I dug down through



Dante's Inferno was also considered epic poetry, so that explains the dark side of deer hunting poetry. I'm thinking Calliope was a cross between Fly Rod Crosby and Annie Oakley.

the accumulating detritus of a lifetime of ill-advised purchases, and I found them! Trail cameras that failed to meet even modest standards back in the day, but now were deemed priceless artifacts; such is buck fever when you blind yourself to certain knowledge, in order to blind yourself with what is certainly false hope. I pulled them out anyway, and wasted about a bazillion dollars' worth of batteries trying to breath some life back into their obsolescence. I got two of them to fly again, inserted new chips, and headed for the woods. I literally have to chain myself to the truck whenever I drive by the land they now live in, (Fever cont. pg 21)



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Places

(Cont. from pg 17)

Swale: A swale is a slight depression that runs along the contour of the land. That is to say, it is level all along its length. It can be deep or shallow, or even hidden (a ditch filled with gravel and capped with topsoil), and the dirt from digging the swale is usually used to make a berm on the downhill side. A common sized swale is two or three feet wide. Of course, you can make them any size you want. An important distinction is that a swale is not a drain. It is a water collection device. The cheapest way to store water is in the soil. And of course, by stopping the run-off, it prevents erosion as well.

Heath: A heath or heathland is a dwarf-shrub habitat found on mainly infertile acidic soils, characterized by open, low growing woody vegetation, often dominated by plants of the Ericaceae. It is similar to moorland, but is generally warmer and drier.

Bog: So what the heck is a bog anyway? Is it a lake? A swamp? A marsh? A farm? Or just a funny sounding word we made up? Actually, a bog is an area of soft, marshy ground, usually near wet-

lands, where cranberries love to grow. During the harvest, water is pumped in and out so it gets really wet. Which explains why we like to wear waders. It's also what makes the cranberry such a unique fruit.

Logan: Swamp or a bog

Hummock: A knoll or tract of land higher than a surrounding marshy area.

Of course, these are just the rudimentary usages that newly licensed guides should master. Most truly dedicated and conscientious Maine Guides never stop expanding their lexicon when it comes to naming and describing the infinite and disparate topography that comprises the fabled Maine north woods.

To this end, accomplished Maine Guide Randy Spencer has made a valuable contribution in a chapter on this subject in his delightful book *Where Cool Waters Flow*. Here

are some that are guaranteed to salt the vocabulary of the most experienced and venerated Registered Maine Guide.

Swallett: A place in the woods where a small, gurgling brook suddenly disappears and runs underground.

Chiminage: A fee charged for using the Maine woods.

Gnarr: A bulbous, sinewy area on a tree.

Zuckle: A stump that is cut close to the ground.

Grike: An opening in a fence that will allow a person but not an animal to get through.

Eyot: Pronounced "ite", this is a small island located in a river or lake.

Homer Spit likes to keep a low profile. He lives on a lake in Maine.

Fever

(Cont. from pg 20)

for fear that I won't even bother stopping the truck before I bail out and go pull the cards. Buck fever.

When the house is dark and quiet, when my wife is working the night shift at the hospital, I sit here with a glass of Scotch and berate myself; "Why, when you've got the best fishing of the year coming up, are you obsessing over deer?!" Mythological creatures that I've only read about. Tales of brave conquest from knights of the forest, armed with mighty weapons and keen eyes. I've got a 1932 copy of Theodore Van Dyk's, *'Still*

Hunter'. I pull it down off the shelves every now and then and give it another read. This summer I read through it like it was all new to me. You can smell the gun oil and wet boot leather wafting off the pages. With every page I turn I can feel the twigs under my feet as I creep along. I hear the rustle of the leaves as a squirrel runs past. Buck fever.

I know it's only August, but it's never too early to start wallowing in one of our favorite illnesses: Buck Fever, get you some of *that*.



Mike Maynard can be reached at perhamtrout@gmail.com

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Outdoors In Maine

by V. Paul Reynolds,
Ellsworth, ME

In the spring of 1970 a man from Millinocket introduced me to his secret trout pond. The pond was breathtaking in every way that a remote trout pond can be. It was a small kettle pond gilded with spiraling spruce and fir trees lending a rich sap green to the still,

ams or Blue Winged Olive so that it flitted down upon the center of the “trout dimple,” you got a hookup, almost every time.

It was love at first bite.

My life has never been quite the same since. Every June for most of the past 50 years, this bewitching,

No matter how many years you visit a place like this, you do not take it for granted. Most remarkable is how this particular place has changed little in more than a half century. The fishing is almost as good as it was when I first fished it so long ago.

gin-clear water. A mountain rose above the pond shielding the West side from the late afternoon sun. An hour before sunset the mirror like surface took on a new look that drives most trout men into ecstasy. Surface feeding trout began leaving random dimples (rise forms) from one side of the water to the other.

If you could delicately cast a # 14 Parachute Ad-

seductive place has found a spot on my calendar. Over the years, one of my boys, my wife, or a close fishing friend, have shared this special spot with me and enjoyed it as much as I have.

A new twist this year, though. Nobody that I love or trust – not one – was available to share my canoe and help with the grub, the cooking and the heavy

lifting.

“No,” Diane said, “Absolutely not. You are not going into that remote area alone!”

“C’mon, Di,” I pleaded with a hang-dog look. “I will be careful. Wear a life jacket on the water and take no chances. I promise.”

“Paul, you are too old and you know it. It’s just plain irresponsible,” she insisted.

Flash forward.

Yep, I finally had my way. The stalemate was finally broken when my eldest son lobbied his mother on my behalf. Actually, the loan of a cutting-edge electronic device belonging to my son, a PLB (personal locator beacon), clinched the deal. As he explained to his concerned mother, if I got into a jam a push of the red button would summon search and rescue to my precise GPS location.

As I departed civilization and flashed a grin and a yellow PLB, wife gave me an extra squeeze and a final admonition, “You be careful.”

Well, the old man got back in one piece. The fishing was as good as ever. The weather window held up. The sunsets were magnificent, and the resident loons kept up their haunting vocalizations all through the night. The food wasn’t bad either.



“I pray and plan that trip will once again be possible, and that my usual fishing buddies will be able to join me. If not, I will look back with a thankful heart and a pocketful of wonderful memories.”

(Illustration by V. Paul Reynolds)

Four days in the woods alone was a new experience, even for a seasoned outdoors veteran. I expected some lonesome moments. But in June good trout ponds in Maine rarely escape visitations – even secret ones. As it turned out, a retired game warden, also camping solo, invited me for lunch and we visited on and off sharing camp fires and stories from our old days at Maine Fish and Wildlife. A thoughtful guy, he willingly helped me with my canoe and heavier gear.

No matter how many years you visit a place like this, you do not take it for granted. Most remarkable is how this particular place has changed little in more

than a half century. The fishing is almost as good as it was when I first fished it so long ago.

Although I am in no rush to pencil in my trout dates on next June’s calendar, I pray and plan that trip will once again be possible, and that my usual fishing buddies will be able to join me. If not, I will look back with a thankful heart and a pocketful of wonderful memories.



The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide and host of a weekly radio program “Maine Outdoors” heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network. He has authored three books. Online purchase information is available at www.sportingjournal.com

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The Gift of Special Places

Robin Wall Kimmerer in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass* states about sweetgrass, "Breathe it in and you start to remember things that you didn't know you had forgotten". I have the same thoughts and feelings around "special places". Places where one can sit and ponder. Where thoughts and memories appear and re-appear from out of nowhere but touch your heart. Sometimes memories you did not realize you had.

I value several such places. My camp at Craig Pond, my brother-in-laws family salt water farm "Downeast", anywhere in or near Baxter State Park, the West Branch of the Union River. These are all places that evoke such feelings.

There is, however, one place that rises above the rest; the small brook where my Grandmother taught me to fish, specifically to fish brooks for trout. Brooks and brook trout, to me, are a gift from God. Again from *Braiding Sweetgrass*, "A gift comes to you through no action of your own, free, having moved toward you without your beckoning. It is not a reward; you cannot earn it, or call it to you, or even deserve it. And yet it appears. Your only role is to be open-eyed and present. Gifts exist in a realm of humility and mystery – as with random acts of kindness we do not know the source".

Such are little brooks and the trout they hold. I do seek them and beckon them but they come to me through actions of their own. They are a gift, presented but not owed or

earned, to be honored.

I can't believe I am writing about this brook as I tend to keep such things close to the vest, very close. There are three things I tend never to talk about; where I go to find fiddle heads, woodcock covers, and trout brooks. The experience that I am about to relate was so special that I

Such are little brooks and the trout they hold. I do seek them and beckon them but they come to me through actions of their own. They are a gift, presented but not owed or earned, to be honored.

had to tell the story even if I expose the whereabouts of a special brook.

That one special little brook in my life is near our family farmstead. It is mostly devoid of trout now but still has appeal. The appeal is the knowledge that six generations of my family have fished in that brook, so once a year I still give it a try. Last week was my time. I fished over three hours, walked until my legs hurt and caught but three little six inch trout. Not a bountiful catch in numbers. I did, however, have an experience that made the day truly exceptional. One

of those gifts that sneaks up from a place that is unknown.

I was sitting on the bank smoking my pipe, thinking about my Grandmother. The tobacco I use is called Katahdin Sunrise which tied one very special place to another. I was feeling a deep sense of peace and gratitude. I was grate-

ful for the day, grateful for the brook and grateful for the Grandmother who taught me to fish in it. It was bright and sunny, the rays of sun were sifting through the trees, dancing and sparkling on the rills and riffles as the brook chuckled along.

In the midst of my reverie I looked to the next pool and there she was, my Grandmother. Dressed in her jeans, red bandana around her neck, her floppy felt hat on with her white hair peeking out under the brim, complete with her creel (which I still have) and her metal telescoping



From Craig Pond

by Bob Mercer,
Bucksport, ME

rod.

Now, I know she passed away years ago but I also know I feel her spirit every time I fish that brook. This very special day I was gifted a glimpse of that spirit. I cannot ex-

very grateful.

As I tried to make sense of it, the only logical conclusion I could draw was this experience was gifted to me by Gram to indicate that I have honored and respected that brook and the trout in it to the point that she let me know she was pleased with me. Pleased with the way I honored the brook and trout that she gifted to me so many years ago.

Thanks Gram, for letting me actually see and not just think that you approve.



Bob Mercer is a retired school teacher and lifelong outdoorsman. He lives in Bucksport.

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The Gun Cabinet

by John Floyd,
Webster Plantation, ME



Bear meat gets a bad rap. In my experience, this happens because hunters don't realize how vitally important it is to get a downed bear field dressed, skinned and cooling in a timely fashion. I believe most hunters learn about field care early in their

Maine is the first big game season of the calendar year, typically starting on the last Monday of August. Temperatures can easily reach the high eighties when a bear hunter takes the stand. A bear's coat is a dense, black fur wrapped around a thick layer of fat.

Heat is the biggest enemy of quality game meat. It causes bacteria to form inside improperly dressed cavities. It promotes spoilage from damaged organs and causes fat to start its inevitable march to turn rancid.

hunting career as deer hunters. And while the basic field care and dressing methods are similar for cervids – bears are a completely different animal when it comes to after-the-shot actions.

Why it is important
Black bear hunting in

This means every element of why we field dress big game, such as preventing spoilage, ensuring quality of meat and stopping bacterial contamination, is working against you as soon as you take your shot. The ambient temperature during the November firearm deer season is markedly

Field Dress for Success

different, giving us a little more leeway as the buck hangs on the game pole.

Heat is the biggest enemy of quality game meat. It causes bacteria to form

Later in the season, I was delivering a client's bear to the local processor and saw a nice bear on the skinning pole, fully intact. I asked him about it. He

cavity with bags of ice. When processing, remove all fat. A nice marbling on a beef rib eye tastes great; however it will not taste the same with bear meat.



Getting a field dressed bear in a cooler after late night retrieval in warm weather is a must to prevent spoilage.

inside improperly dressed cavities. It promotes spoilage from damaged organs and causes fat to start its inevitable march to turn rancid. Last bear season, I could not believe how many bears I saw at the local tagging station not field dressed. Our station closes at 8 p.m. so it sees a lot of activity the first few hours after they open in the morning with hunters and guides pulling in to get their bear registered and tagged. Most bears are taken during the golden hour before sunset. That means the bears I saw had the internals intact and stewing for up to 12 hours!

shook his head and told me that a crew of guides from another outfit in my area just dropped it off. I couldn't believe my eyes; the temperature was nearing 70 degrees. He looked at the bear in my truck, pointing to the spreading stick keeping the chest cavity open for cooling and air

Our process here at Tucker Ridge is to remove the bear from the field immediately and bring it back to camp. It goes on the game pole and I go to work dressing it with help from the hunter. After the initial organ and viscera removal, I trim any excess fat and diaphragm material left over inside the cavity. This is important. Then we rinse the body cavity out with the hose and pat dry the inside of the cavity. Excess water left inside can stimulate bacterial growth. We then pat down the hide of excess blood and insert a spreading stick to keep the chest cavity open to promote cooling. The bear is lowered into the truck and we set off to register it. If it is after hours, my processor is on call to open the freezer to get the bear cooled down until the tagging station opens in the morning.

Our clients request bear dishes every season and we oblige. Bear meat favors a slow cooking style so our most popular dishes are bear chili, bear stew, bear roasts and the overall camp favorite – bear meatloaf.

Do it right

Whether you elect to use a processor for your bear or do it yourself, the keys to field care and processing are the same. Get the bear out of the woods as soon as you can; forget that 'We'll get it in the morning' nonsense. Field dress it quickly and remove the hide as soon as possible. If you don't have access to a cooler, pack the chest

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John is a Registered Maine Guide, an NRA Certified Instructor and is the owner of Tucker Ridge Outdoors in Webster Plantation, Maine. He can be reached at john@tuckerridge.me or on Facebook @tuckerridgeoutdoors

Me & Joe

(Cont. from pg 19)

over Joe's face. "I can't move him!" He cried.

"Try and pull sideways," I said helpfully. "Maybe he just needs a little nudge in a different direction."

But no matter which way Joe tugged, the fish wouldn't budge.

"I kin still feel 'im wigglin' down there," Joe said, almost frantic now. "He must of got 'imself wrapped around a sunken log or a big rock."

"Well," I said, "I guess you'll just have to break him off."

"Break 'im off?!" Joe shouted wrathfully. "Are you lame?!" He stared back at the pool and a look of grim determination came over his face. "We'll jist have ter go in after 'im!"

I looked at him in consternation. "What's this 'we' crap?"

"We'll both have ter dive for 'im," Joe continued. "I gotta keep the line tight an' you'll have ter unwind the line for me. Come on, the water's warm an' it ain't like you can't swim."

I muttered and grumbled as we stripped down to our underwear. Joe was wrong about the water. It wasn't warm, but neither was it as cold as I expected. We waded out with Joe reeling in line as we went. Finally, waist-deep, we slipped underwater.

The water had a slight tannin stain but was quite clear. Clouds obscured the sun, so we could only see a few yards in any direction. Joe would swim a few feet, then pause to crank in line. I peered all around, trying to catch a glimpse of the big trout. In this manner we slowly gained yardage.

The water deepened as we entered the turbulence near where the falls emptied into the pool. We were about 20 feet down now and I figured it was almost time to surface for a breath of air.

Then, suddenly, the sun emerged from hiding and its bright rays turned the pool as bright and clear as a fishbowl. The first thing I saw was a massive trout struggling at the end of a tangled line. Then, to my immediate horror, I saw what the line was tangled around.

In a nest of boulders on the bottom, in the back current from the falls, a nearly naked man sat as though resting for a moment. As we drifted close, caught in the same current that had trapped the body, the scene took on the aura of a horror film.

The man was wedged in a nest of boulders, his feet firmly planted in gravel, long blond hair drifting around his face like a storm cloud. Scraps of torn clothing hung from lax limbs. Vacant eyes bulged from bony sockets, staring into the distance at something

we couldn't see. Both of the corpse's hands were clutched tightly around an oblong steel box. Joe's fishing line was caught around a projecting corner of the box.

Transfixed, I turned my head to look at Joe. His eyes were wide with shock and his mouth hung open, a series of bubbles floating out and drifting toward the surface. For a moment we floated there in shock. Then some slight change in current lifted the corpse slightly. Slowly, with languid movements of the limbs, the body began to float towards us.

At that moment, the sun went back behind a cloud. Visibility once again shrank to a few yards. The body disappeared in the murk.

I heard a muffled cry. More bubbles burst from Joe's mouth and he began to frantically claw his way toward the surface. Even with his head start, I beat him to the shore by a length.

A few hours later we stood again on the shoreline of the pool, dressed in warm, dry clothes. Around us, law enforcement officers from at least three agencies went about their solemn business. A team of divers had just emerged from the water and EMTs were loading the body of Sucker Le Poisson onto a stretcher.

Warden Pinch Brody came over to stand beside us.

"When he capsized that canoe, he must have been near enough the outlet of the lake so the current carried him down the rapids of the stream and over the falls." He shook his head. "If he'd let go of that heavy box, he might have made it to shore."

Most of the group of officers headed off through the woods in the wake of the stretcher, one of them carrying the heavy steel box. We watched them go.

"Anyway," Brody continued, "the two of you are in for a substantial

reward that the bank was offering for finding Le Poisson and the loot."

"That'll be handy," Joe said. "But warden... them divers...they didn't happen ter find my fish, did they?"

Brody smiled. "Nope. By the time they got down there, the trout had pulled free." He held out his hand. "But the line was still wrapped around the box. Here's your fly." He dropped the caddis into Joe's palm.

"I guess if you want that trout, you'll have to try for him again after things settle down."

"Oh, that don't bother me none," Joe said quietly. "Guess I'd rather catch that trout myself than take him after he was caught by a dead man." He sighed and glanced over at me.

"But I'm thinkin' both of us are gonna see ol' Sucker in our dreams for quite a spell yet, jist a' comin' for us down deep in that pool."



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(See pg 47)



Kineo Currents



by Suzanne AuClair,
Rockwood, ME

I learned a new term this summer. It's called "Normal Off." That's when you're pulling a canvas tight around the curve of the stems of a wooden canoe as you go about closing the canvas around it. It's the last bit to do to envelope the

I might call Normal Off.

For more about it, master canoe builders Jerry Stelmok and Rollin Thurlow go into detail about that and every other aspect of canoe making in their book "The Wood & Canvas Canoe, A Complete Guide

He measured, cut, and what I call "friggy-jigged" new sections of plank and had to replace that one stem and deck, which proved to be a fussy cut.

planks, creating seams on either end that are overlapping, neatly fastened, then trimmed. It's also what quilters might call a "fussy cut." The canvas has got to be pulled in such a way that leaves the seams tight and smooth. Otherwise, you're in all sorts of trouble. I like this new term because Normal Off could also be used to describe any number of situations! The last few years have been what

to its History, Construction, Restoration, and Maintenance."

As written before, my canoe needed some pointed maintenance but, overall, the bones were solid. Not a builder and strapped for time, I did not want this to be a long project, so I called on Jerry. As promised, he fit me in this spring and we got started on bringing my 50-year-old hand-built 15-footer back to life. It is a

Friggy - Jiggy and Normal Off

working canoe. It was built by my late husband to handle Moosehead area waters for regular trips. It is wider than usual in the center for this size canoe, and deep, so it offers steady loaded passage. Over the years, the outer gunwales rotted and the canvas peeled away from the top. The last time we used it, we fastened the top where the canvas was loose with duct tape, which worked like a charm. Roger would cringe to know that I admit to it, because he was precise about these things. In a nod to him, the tape was supposed to be just to get by that one trip.

It was easy for me to remove the old canvas but Jerry warned me that we wouldn't know for sure what needed to be done until we could see the planks. Sure enough, there were also a couple of holes in the planking near the gunwales, and one stem top needed to be cut out and replaced. Jerry had me pulling tacks from the worn places and removing



those few pieces of planks. He measured, cut, and what I call "friggy-jigged" new sections of plank and had to replace that one stem and deck, which proved to be a fussy cut. What I liked is that he held to not going down a rabbit hole of replacing many parts, only

those that needed it. He reassured me that this half century canoe really was in pretty good shape.

I learned that building or maintaining a wood and canvas canoe is as much an art as it is a science. Jerry has decades of building new and restoring old canoes, and he said that each one can be different, so you just have to figure it out. Mine did not sit neatly in the cradle of the canvas, even though the lines were good. The canvas, which he said normally smooths out well, with the right tension and weight pressing down in length and width directions, did not. There were folds and buckles underneath, inspiring a sleepless night. I worried the canvas couldn't be stretched taut. All unfounded. Jerry was patient and worked each section. I followed along, he stretching canvas with a tool and me hammering in the tacks. It was a long (Friggy cont. pg 30)



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Teaching Whoa

Part 1

A pointing dog must be trained to stand still. Whether it be steadiness on point, steadiness while backing another dog's point, being commanded to stop due to safety concerns,

hesitation and then jumps in. Training standing still is a common exercise which is carried on daily across the country.

As with all training, there is no firm calendar

dog to stand still. One is the common training table. It's a table 8' to 12' long and 2' wide. It stands about 2 1/2 feet high. There are ramps at each end for the dog to walk up one end and

down the other end. For training table work, the pup should have some experience with a traditional collar and lead.

The first step is to acquaint the pup with the training

table. With the pup on a lead, encourage the pup up one end of the table. Don't pull or drag the pup...the process needs to be fun...and with much praise. Once on the table, encourage the pup to walk across the table and down the opposite ramp. Repeat this exercise three times. At this point,

as to when to begin standing still training. For our dogs, we have started at ten weeks. We don't want to wait too long because we teach standing still before we teach recall. Also, we avoid the eight week fear period.

There are common tools used for training your

there are many reasons for our dog to stand still. The command for standing still is often "whoa". However, you can use any word you like such as "stop", "hey"...you select the word you like best.

With good genetics, your puppy will stop and flash point a bird. The predator natural instinct takes over and after a few seconds, the pup jumps in and tries to catch the bird. For a pointing dog, that initial hesitation needs to be elongated into a full point. Your dog must remain standing still for two minutes, ten minutes or 30 minutes; or as long as it takes to find your dog or the bird.

Training your dog to stand still gives you that elongated point. Standing still has been trained for so long that there are bloodlines that require very little training. Most of the standing still genetics are found in field trial bloodlines. But don't despair if your puppy gives you the traditional



Pro trainer Patti Carter working the "whoa" table.

(Photo by Paul Fuller)



On Point

by Paul Fuller,
Durham, N.H.

give the pup a short rest. Five minutes is good.

Now lead the pup up a ramp and begin across the table. About three feet up the table, pick the pup up about six inches, hold for three or four seconds and then gently say "whoa"

to the other end and repeat the exercise. Do the lift and "whoa" exercise three times. More than three times will tire the puppy which we don't want...we always end a training session with the pup wanting more. If time allows, com-

As with all training, there is no firm calendar as to when to begin standing still training. For our dogs, we have started at ten weeks.

as you place the pup back onto the table. Hold the pup in-place for three or four seconds and repeat "whoa". The pup may want to immediately begin walking again and that's fine. Lead the pup another three feet and repeat the lift and "whoa" command. With each lift and "whoa", you want the puppy to stand still a little longer. Now lead the pup down the opposite ramp and bring back

plete this exercise in the morning and then repeat in the afternoon.

Next month we'll complete the "Whoa" process with Part 2.



Paul and Susan, his wife, co-host the Bird Dogs Afield TV show. Past episodes are available on their website: www.bird-dogsafiel.com. Contact: paul@birddogsafiel.com

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Basics Of Survival

by Joe Frazier,
Bangor, ME

When you take your dog into the woods, or even walking around town, you owe it to them to know basic first aid and be prepared to help them.

Always have your vet phone number in your phone as well as the closest

emergency vet clinic. If you are traveling, find the closest emergency vet where you will be staying.

One item you need in a dog first aid kit is a muzzle that fits your dog. No matter how much you trust them you need to muzzle a dog before you try to help them. Never muzzle them if they are having trouble breathing

but that is the only time. Any dog can lash out and bite if they are scared or in pain. The muzzle protects you and them.

Always use gloves when working on your dog. You don't want their blood to infect you and you don't want dirty hands to infect them.

If they are limping or not putting weight on their feet, check their pads. You are looking for cuts, cracks, bleeding, broken nails, or anything puncturing the feet. For any cuts or bleeding, wash gently with clean water. Do not use hydrogen peroxide or harsh soap. If you feel the wound needs

to be cleaned with something other than water, use unscented hand soap (such as Ivory) or a small amount of baby shampoo or gentle dish soap (Dawn). Use either gauze or a pad of some kind to put GENTLE pressure where the bleeding is. Women's sanitary pads work well for this. Use gauze and either tape or wrap that sticks to itself

to hold the pad on. Get them to the vet as soon as possible for treatment.

If there is a penetrating wound, such as a stick or an arrow that has Penetrated the skin, DO NOT try to remove it. Again, muzzle the animal first and try to stabilize the object in place. Bandage the area as best you can. Protect the dog and make them as

Dog First Aid

comfortable as possible. Get them to a vet immediately.

Dog bites can be deceptive. If a dog is bitten by another dog; it can look on the outside like a minor wound, but there can be

neck or spine injury, use a flat board or even a large piece of cardboard to help stabilize them and keep them from moving.

If your dog is sprayed by a skunk, keep them outside to clean them. You



severe internal damage and infection. Make the dog comfortable and transport them. The only way to be sure how much damage there is, is to get to the Vet.

If you need to carry your dog, especially if there is the possibility of

don't want the skunk smell all through your house. First check your dog's eyes to see if they are red and irritated. Flush them with clean water for a few minutes to get the skunk spray out of them. Be gentle and do not use any soap or cleaners. Before you wash your dog, protect yourself with safety goggles, gloves (dishwashing gloves work well), a mask or respirator, and a trash bag you can wear like a rain coat.

In a small bucket mix 1 quart of regular (first aid) hydrogen peroxide, 1 cup baking soda, and a (First Aid cont. pg 35)



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The Choice to Hunt

Recently, I found myself in deep conversation with my longtime friend Jay Herron from Shelburne, Ma., about tree-stand placement, conversation deer hunters often find themselves in during these early days of summer. Especially with those cold, frosty days of fall

cause someone to wake up one day and just decide to stop hunting. But that thought followed me all the way from my conversation with Jay, into the evening, eventually drifting off to sleep thinking that the answer is probably inspired by the same reasons people everywhere, often stop do-

it's no longer a priority for them. I mean, who among us doesn't have, or will have someday, issues that we must deal with in one way or another? And tell me that you've never had a day when you didn't feel like heading out and into some wet, nasty, frost-bitten morning not fit for

So, this past spring I understood totally when a hunter approached me after a turkey hunting seminar, to share her thoughts with me, but I wasn't quite prepared for what she said!

and winter, when we'll all be in those stands again, just hanging out there as thoughts of better, or perhaps worse, days to come! As Jay and I continued to talk, we started reminiscing back, decades ago, to when deer hunters were always abundant in the West County area during the opening week of shotgun season.

But now, those days of the fall and winter "exodus of hunters" simply aren't happening anymore. Instead, eastern hunters now prefer those deer rich regions to the east, from Interstate 495 all the way down to the Cape Cod Canal where hunters regularly harvest the greatest number of whitetail deer! North Shore and Worcester County are also "hot beds" for deer hunters today.

But sadly, there are other reasons that contribute to this major change in hunters making the long trek up to the Western Mass. and Berkshire County woods. Many longtime resolute hunters are simply no longer with us or have just stopped hunting entirely for reasons only they know. Some have stopped because they've had too, but with others, it's hard to say what would

ing things they love simply because they have too, and for reasons that are important, and often known only by them.

Personally, I believe it to be a combination of many things that would cause a person to just stop doing what they love to do, while also realizing

man nor beast! When that happens, do we quit, or do we simply push through it and keep going? And if we do keep pushing, the question becomes, are we still having fun doing it?

In my lifetime, I have talked with thousands of hunters, and non-hunters alike, and I have listened to

On The Ridge

by Joe Judd
Shelburne, MA



all kinds of stories, revealing all types of scenarios. So, this past spring I understood totally when a hunter approached me after a turkey hunting seminar, to share her thoughts with me, but I wasn't quite prepared for what she said! "Joe, for the first time in at least 20 years, I won't be hunting deer or turkeys in 2023-2024"!

Now, at first, I was a little surprised as I knew her to be an above average hunter! And while I didn't need an explanation from her, she felt compelled to give me one just the same. And the fact that she felt the need to assure

me that she hadn't become an anti-hunter was even more telling! In fact, she mentioned that twice...and this was her story; she had shot a beautiful gobbler in the spring of 2022, and when she walked up to it, something felt completely wrong to her. She hesitated a bit, trying to explain to me what she felt, and I didn't push her to continue. And that's when I realized, again, just how deeply ingrained hunting really is with some people!

Because these moments happen for reasons only they understand. And

(Choice cont. pg 30)

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day, but the canvas pulled
smooth and secure.

Another day we spent rubbing into the weave a waterproofing filler. This was labor intensive and, again, because the weather had changed, the compound needed adjusting. Something Jerry had to experiment with to keep the right consistency. Now my canoe is curing, before I take it home and paint and sand it with multiple layers. There's still quite a bit to do, but it'll be ready for a fall trip.

Suzanne AuClair lives near Rockwood. She has been writing about the Moosehead Lake region for 28 years and produced the state anthology, "The Origin, Formation & His-

tory of Maine's Inland Fisheries Division." She is an award-winning member of the New England Outdoor Writers Assn.

Choice

(Cont. from pg 29)

at that moment, especially when it comes to hunting, they realize it's no longer fun, or necessary, for them to hunt anymore. This is not to say she won't ever hunt again, because she just might. But for now, she's no longer a hunter, and that's perfectly ok with me! She made a personal decision about her own life, just as others have made personal decisions in their lives. To *her*, this doesn't mean that others shouldn't hunt, nor does it mean that *we* should think any less of people who don't. And for me, that's exactly the way it should be!

In the end, all of us as people must someday come to terms with what we do, and what we can't do in all things. Hunting, for those who choose to participate in this lifestyle, is often deeply entrenched in a family's history as a cherished place that carries powerful and deep traditions. But it's also a major undertaking that warrants serious, and at times, even critical thinking!

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For more information on hunting deer in New Hampshire, visit www.huntnh.com/hunting/deer.

News

(Cont. from pg 14)

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NH Conservation Officers Honored



The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Law Enforcement Division has recognized their 2022 New Hampshire Conservation Officers of the Year:

Conservation Officer Christopher McKee honored with the 2022 Northeast Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association of the Year Award

Conservation Officer McKee has been with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's (NHFG) Law Enforcement Division since November of 2006. Officer McKee was first assigned to the 53-patrol area in District 5 where he worked effectively for 12 years. In November of 2018, Officer McKee transferred to the 38-patrol area in District 3. This patrol is located in the White Mountains where the calls for search and rescue and dive missions are consistently high.

As a result, CO McKee joined the New Hampshire Fish and Game Dive Team with his relocation, and has been available for missions ever since. He is also a member of the Advanced Search and Rescue Team, and this past year he participated in over 50 search and rescue missions. Most notably, Officer McKee was instrumental in discovering clues during a three-day and extremely

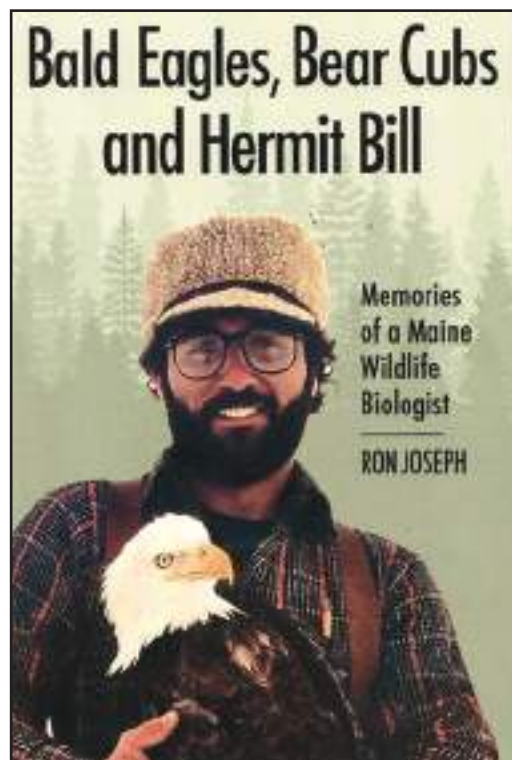
(News cont. pg 57)

Hermit Bill

Wildlife biologists are a peculiar lot. Some of us were inspired to pursue this outdoorsy profession

Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ron is blessed with an excep-

tional memory and is a keen observer of animal and human nature. He also happens to be a gifted story teller and regaled us at the lunchroom daily with story after story about growing up in the rough-and-tumble ethnic neighborhoods of Waterville and Oakland, Maine and on his grandpar-



ent's horse-powered farm in Mercer. Ron is prone to predicaments. We marveled at how he always returned from a day's work in the field with a hilarious story. Many of you are probably familiar with a Ron Joseph tale or two. For many years he wrote a regular column for the *Moosehead Messenger* when he

by a childhood spent playing in the woods, hunting and fishing, or working on a family farm. Most of us are hopeless introverts who thought that spending a career alone in the wilderness with the animals would be the best way to avoid public speaking, writing, and controversy. Others aspired to save the natural world from the evils of pesticides, acid rain, and now climate change. Those of us lucky enough to survive college and land a wildlife job were in for a rude awakening. We would spend most of our careers indoors behind a desk, writing pithy reports, answering the phone and endless emails, and find ourselves on constant demand for the public speaking circuit. As a consolation, we still had our shot at trying to save the world....

My good friend and coworker, Ron Joseph, is one of Maine's treasures. We worked together as wildlife biologists for

worked for MDIFW in Greenville. The *Bangor Daily News* and *Down East Magazine* started to pick up his stories while he worked for USFWS. During the Covid pandemic, Ron was encouraged by his good friends Kristen Lindquist and Paul Doiron, both ac-

Many of you are probably familiar with a Ron Joseph tale or two. For many years he wrote a regular column for the Moosehead Messenger when he worked for MDIFW in Greenville.

complished Maine authors, to craft his kitchen table tales into a book. Ron cast a Hendrickson to the folks at Islandport Press. They took the fly and ran deep into amber waters with the recently published *Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill*.

A common theme in Ron's prose are the characters that make up the red-checked, Rob Roy fabric of Maine. He pokes fun at a few fellow biologists like one of his first supervisors, Gene Dumont, who planted some chocolate covered raisins in the woods before training Ron on how to conduct deer pellet surveys. As a wet-behind-



Northwoods Sketchbook

by Mark McCollough, Hampden, ME

the-ears biologist, Ron was eager to learn the nuances of counting deer poop. He was flabbergasted when the sage biologist stooped to

track down three escaped German prisoners of war. "Hall could track a weasel across three townships." He promptly tracked down

pick up the look-alike deer pellets and ate them with great pleasure in front of Ron. The lesson learned here was that there were other things in the woods that look like deer pellets, and we are here to count only deer pellets. Later that summer, Ron ran across a naked woman sunbathing right smack on his deer pellet compass line, but that is a whole 'nuthah story...

Although Ron never met Hermit Bill Hall, he heard many personal stories from his mother's family. The sole permanent resident of Hobbstown lived in a single room log cabin on Fish Pond. Bill was deputized in WWII to

the Germans, which added to his notoriety. When the pond was ice free, he washed his clothes by dragging them behind his Old Town canoe. River drivers found his union suite snagged on floating pulpwood and hung it on a shoreline tree. Bill retrieved his long johns and nailed a note to the tree, reading "Please iron next time." Ron later found the hermit's hidden diary revealing a life of resigned happiness living alone in the wilderness.

Ron describes how he spent a winter in a French-Canadian logging camp surveying deer yards in the

(Bill cont. pg 35)

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“Just Fishing”

by Bob Leeman,
Bangor, ME

Originally created by Joe Sterling, who once owned and operated a flyshop near Danforth, Maine, the Wood Special trout fly pattern remains today as one of the most popular fly-

Joe Sterling, they say, had his origins in Massachusetts, and settled in this northern Maine location, not only for its seclusion, but mostly for the fishing opportunities! He loved to

Often, Joe locked up his flyshop after supper and headed for the deadwaters—located just above Mars Hill—to fool a few-rising brookies with his Chuck Caddis, he told me.

casting imitations for brook trout and even landlocked salmon.

This writer visited Mr. Sterling on several occasions, back in Northern Maine excursions in the 1970's and 80's. It was most impressive to view the dozens of bamboo fly-rods displayed on the upper walls of his spacious shop.

flycast the Prestile Stream that flowed not too far from his diggings. His innovative fly tying efforts also fashioned up another imitation caddis fly, which he labeled “Chuck Caddis”, which is a fine choice for those who take pleasure in casting on those caddisfly hatches over and on their favorite stream waters.

was, and still is, a “go to” streamer type fly pattern when the smelts are running, or even after.

Not too many fly tyers down through the years have entered the fly tying game with three big winners! And all the entries “continue” to be at the top of the flybox displays carried in their fly vests.

You may discover all of these fur and feather assemblies in my books entitled: “Trolling Flies For Trout and Salmon”

by Dick Stewart and Bob Leeman and “Fly Fishing Maine Rivers, Brooks and Streams” by Bob Leeman.

WOOD SPECIAL

Thread: Black

Tail: Golden Pheasant tippets

Body: Florescent orange chenille

Rib: Wound spaced medium silver tinsel

Wing: Lemon Wood-duck or Mallard---tied flat on top

Throat: Sparse brown hackle

Eyes: Jungle cock tied short (if shown)

CHUCK CADDIS

Hook: Size 16 wet

Thread: Black

Body: Dark brown muskrat dubbing

Rib: Wound dark brown hackle (trimmed)

Wing: White-tipped woodchuck guard hairs

Head: Black or dark brown ahead of wound

hackle

JOE'S SMELT

Hook: 4X long streamer type

Tail: Small bunch red calftail

Body: Braided silver tinsel with red thread front and rear

Throat: Painted red Wing: Narrow Mallard (sub) feather for original pintail

Head: Black with yellow painted eye with black dot



Bob Leeman is a Master Maine Guide, outdoor writer, naturalist, book author, and a co-host of MAINE OUTDOORS radio program on Sunday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Two of his books, “Trolling Flies for Trout and Salmon” and “Fly Fishing Maine Rivers, Brooks, and Streams” are still available, in soft cover only, at several bookstores and fly shops, or directly from him. For information, see ad in this publication or call 207-217-2550.

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The fish stocking report now features daily updates from hatchery staff. Instead of hearing when and where the hatcheries have stocked well after the season has ended, anglers now will be able to easily locate waters freshly stocked with catchable trout.

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Getting Ready

Thankfully, despite being distracted by boat motors and trolling for trout, hunting season is creeping up on us. It's time to get our gear ready, replace worn parts, boots, blinds or stands. We also need to review our ammo. I have said many times, please do not wait until the last minute to purchase your ammo. If you do, the ammo you find may not be what you are looking for. You may be forced to compromise on the ammo you hunt with. It is, in fact, true that ammo is more readily available than it has been in the recent past. However, the variety of ammo that you find is limited.

I recently visited a couple of shops and observed good quantities of ammo. But as an example, one had one brand with one bullet weight in .45/70. It was not what I wanted. I then looked for .30/06 ammo. One shop had 125 gr. tipped hollow points and nothing else. The other shop only had 150 gr. soft point. Again, not what I wanted. My search continued for .308. The same disappointment. I was able to ask my dealer to order what I wanted. If this had been the week before the season opener, I would be in trouble.

I know we have heard this all before, but my concern here is the inevitable compromises that occur. If you can't find the 180 gr. soft point .308, you may settle for a 150 gr. tipped hollow point. The buck of

your dreams walks down the ridge you are watching at about 40 yards. Perfect, right? The 150 gr. bullet is a fine whitetail load, but the tipped hollow point 150 gr. is designed for long range performance, at 40 yards this round makes contact at nearly 3000 fps.

The tip pushes back into the hollow point and the bullet explodes on contact creating a ghastly entry wound about 2 inches deep right on the shoulder blade, never reaching the vitals and maiming this magnificent animal. In another example, a bear hunting client of mine came to camp with 168 gr. .30/30 ammo using an FTX bullet. He was hesitant to show me the ammo, because in the orientation letter that I send to my clients, I recommend round nose soft points of at least 170 gr.

This is because, at the ranges we hunt over bait, it requires a heavy for caliber, well-constructed bullet that can hold together and pass thru a bear. Faster is not always better and you need to match your ammo to the way you hunt. A 100 lb. antelope at 325 yards calls for a different projectile than a moose at 50 yards. In addition to bullet performance we need to sight our rifles in with the ammo we are actually hunting with.

Many people believe that if their rifle is sighted in with a 180 gr. bullet then any 180 gr. will impact the same. This is not the case. Different brands or bullet configurations will

impact in different places. This is a common mistake. Sight in with what you hunt with. The other advantage to this pre-season shooting session is to find any issues with your rifle or optics. The time to find these issues is on the range in a controlled situation, not when you are trying to harvest your buck.

Other equipment that must be carefully checked are tree stands, or ladder stands. Nothing can ruin

Other equipment that must be carefully checked are tree stands, or ladder stands. Nothing can ruin a hunt faster than a faulty stand.

a hunt faster than a faulty stand. The fault can range from a squeak that ruins a shot to a failure that causes a fall and a devastating injury or worse. All joints and bolts need to be checked. Rusty bolts should be replaced. Any hinged seats should be lubricated with a scent free lubricant, any supports need to be checked as well. Straps lose strength over time. They can be compromised by mildew, dry-rot and exposure to the elements. It's much better to replace a few straps than take the chance.

I am of course, talking about metal stands. If you use homemade wooden platform stands, my comment would be, "Don't".



Guns & Ammo: A Guide's Perspective



by Tom Kelly,
Orient, ME



I am not talking about box blinds on the ground, but wooden tree stands are a disaster waiting to happen. Lastly, fall restraint harnesses should be thoroughly inspected. Frayed straps should be scrapped. In fact, this could be an opportunity to replace that mess of straps that came

the effect on your family if you fall and are disabled or worse.

When you are doing your pre-season checks, include a youngster or new hunter. Show them the right way.



Tom is a Registered Maine Guide. He is the owner/operator of Shamrock Outfitters in Orient Maine with his wife Ellie. He is a retired police officer as well as a retired manager from two major firearms manufacturers. He is an NRA Certified Instructor as well as a Hunter Safety Instructor in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. You can reach Tom at Shamrock Outfitters (207) 694-2473. Please visit our Facebook Page: Shamrock Outfitters and Properties and come visit us on East Grand Lake.

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The Maine Woods

Matt LaRoche,
Shirley, ME

I had the opportunity to guide for the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) over the Memorial Day weekend. The Fly-Fishing Festival was held at their Little Lyford Lodge that is located east of Greenville and west of Katahdin Iron Works in Bowdoin College East Township – see Maine Delorme Atlas pages 41 and 42.

The goal of the weekend was to celebrate fly fishing with expert presentations, music, science, art

erman and could put the fly over a rising trout on a consistent basis. I paddled him around Little Lyford Pond #2 chasing rises. He caught at least a dozen brook trout from 6 – 12 inches. I was surprised at how good the fishing was for a less than ideal day.

As he was fishing, he told me that he had never seen a Maine moose other than a flash that ran across the road in Baxter State Park. While we were fishing a young bull moose

guest said, “Matt, that was epic!” One of the joys of guiding is being part of your guests’ epic adventures. Photo included with

After this moose show, I said, “That was cool.” My guest said, “Matt, that was epic!” One of the joys of guiding is being part of your guests’ epic adventures.

and more, all focused on the native wild brook trout fishery located in that area and the beautiful place they call home.

Eric Ward and myself were the guides for the festival. Some of our customers were children that had never fly fished and others were experienced anglers. The first afternoon I had the privilege of guiding Matthew Trogner from Allagash Brewing Company. He was a very good fly fish-

came out on the opposite shore of the pond. Pretty soon two more moose came out, a cow and another yearling. The young bull swam across the pond a mere 40 yards away and then sensing that something was not quite right swam back across the pond to join the other two moose before they disappeared into the thick growth that bordered the pond.

After this moose show, I said, “That was cool.” My

this article was taken by Matthew of the moose that swam across the pond.

On the second day, I had the pleasure of guiding David Abel, a reporter for the Boston Globe and his two sons, Ozzie and Wolf. They had no fly fishing experience at all. We practiced casting on the lawn of the camps. After I was satisfied that they could at least get a fly on the water, we went to Horseshoe Pond. We paddled down to the west end of the pond to get in the lee of the wind. The boys- only ages 6 and 8 were tangled up most of the time. So, I resigned myself to the fact that the best course of action was for me to hook the fish and let the boys reel them in. They would squeal with joy as they reeled in a fish. It was fun for everyone.

After we had fished for a couple hours and caught several trout, we decided to paddle back to

the landing and go back to the lodge for lunch. I had pointed out various wildflowers on the walk into the pond and they were naming the same flowers on the way out.

The Abel family went for a hike to the head of Gulf Hagas with Jenny Ward, the event organizer for AMC after lunch. The boys even went for a swim in the West Branch of the Pleasant River.

I had some free time in the afternoon so I went back to Little Lyford Pond #2 and caught a few trout. I brought two nice fat 10-inch ones back to my wife so she could have them for lunch the next day.

On the third day, I took the Abel family fishing on Little Lyford Pond #1. The oldest boy caught 13- small brookies that morning. At first, I would hook the fish and he would reel them in but after a couple fish, he was casting by himself, hooking the fish, taking them off the hook and releasing them all by himself. After our morning of fishing, my young guest pronounced me, “the best guide in the world!” An ego boost for sure!

My wife and I spent

a couple days scouting the area before my guiding job for AMC. I must say that I was very impressed with the improvements AMC has made at the camps and to the property. The meals that were served at the lodge were first class. Trails were all cleared and marked to area ponds, AMC canoes were available for people to use and there was a very impressive full scribe Adirondack style shelter built near Horseshoe Pond. All these facilities are open to the public to enjoy. All the ponds we fished had plenty of native brook trout that were not difficult to catch.

Plus, the area has some stunning scenery and beautiful undeveloped lakes and ponds. See www.outdoors.org for more information on AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative.



Matt LaRoche is a retired Superintendent of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, owner of Maine Woods Guide Service and an avid outdoorsman. He can be reached at 207-695-2877 or at matt.la-roche2877@gmail.com See www.mainewoodsguide.com



(Photo by Matthew Trogner.)

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First Aid

(Cont. from pg 28)

teaspoon of Dawn dishwashing liquid. Add 1 or 2 quarts of warm water and use a rag or soft car wash type sponge to scrub your dog's fur. Wash them well, keeping the solution away from the dog's eyes. Rinse them and wash them again if needed. After the smell is gone you can wash them with a regular dog shampoo to finish cleaning them. Watch your dog for a couple days after for any sign of breathing problems that may develop. If you are not sure if your dog is having problems, call your vet.

Keep your skunk supplies all together in a box or bucket so you can grab them when needed, and don't mix the ingredients until you plan to use them.

If your dog has a run in with a porcupine, don't

try to remove the quills yourself. Keep your dog as comfortable as possible, prevent them from rubbing the area and possibly driving the quills deeper, and get to a vet as soon as possible. Quills have barbs on them like fish hooks and work their way deeper into the skin. They can even go deep enough to penetrate organs. They carry infection as well. If you cut the quills, they can splinter and each piece can work its way into the skin. Quills are very painful and the vet will have to give the dog general anesthesia and pain meds to remove them and check for infection.

Never give your dog human medication of any kind unless you are told to by your vet. Some medication is toxic for dogs.

There are some good first aid for dog apps you can get for your phone to have as a reference and

some online classes available, too.

Joe is a Husband, Father, Author and Marine. Joeefrazier193@gmail.com

Bill

(Cont. from pg 31)

North Maine Woods. He experienced the most joy there as a biologist, even though it was the lowest paying job of his career. Bewitched by the northern lights on a subzero night, snowshoeing alone on a lake miles from the logging camp, he nearly lost his life when he fell through the ice. He escaped the black and foreboding waters, barely.

Ron's prose can paint a wildlife portrait as vivid as a Winslow Homer watercolor. His poignant epilogue is about a Canada goose, banded in Nunavut

on the shores of Hudson Bay, and dying in a wetland near Moosehead Lake.

My wife (also a wildlife biologist) and I giggled our way through Ron's masterpiece until tears ran down our cheeks. You and I know some of these characters, including Bob Wagg (of *Dead River Rough Cut* fame). Ron regales us with the story of the legendary Casey LaCasce from Spencer Bay who tried to sell illegal caribou stew at the Greenville moose check station. He also writes of an irate, elderly woman who doggedly pursued a successful buck hunter on Interstate 95 with a deer tail sticking out the back of his truck. "I've been trying to flag you down for 10 miles to tell you that your dog's tail is caught in the truck gate!" Whenever wildlife biologists gather (and perhaps a few beers consumed), tear-jerking an-

ecdotes like these abound, but few take the time to write them down. Ron did, and leaves us all scratching our heads...just why did old Chester from Monroe muse that "you can learn a lot about someone's character by studying their woodpile?"

Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill is available in bookstores or on Amazon.com for \$18.95. His letters of endearment to the great State of Maine are worthy to sit alongside other outdoor classics on your bookshelf or in the coffee can with the toilet papah' at the outhouse at your huntin' camp. But don't tell my buddy that I said that!

Mark McCollough lives in Hampden, Maine and can be contacted at markmccollough25@gmail.com

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View From The River

by Laurie Chandler
Bremen, ME

My trip journals are among my most treasured possessions. As a writer, I rely upon them to record details which could easily be lost or muddled up during the long weeks of an expedition. Rereading them whisks me back in time and place with vivid clarity. The process of journaling inspires me to slow down, to look around and

If so, it sounds as if you may be ready to write.

Friend and fellow author Kim Yesis is the one who recently got me thinking about my journaling process. Kim is busy preparing for a unique experience. This summer, she will join her husband, painter Peter Yesis, for two weeks in a rustic cabin at Lock Dam on Chamberlain Lake.

home her memories in a different way, through nature journaling. Kim is a gifted writer. Her book, *Side by Side: Tales from Behind the Canvas*, was a Maine Literary Award finalist. In it, Kim tells the story of their creative partnership and Peter's leap of faith into the art world.

When we got together for dinner at Fran-ny's Bistro in Camden, I brought along a couple of my well-loved journals for

recycled, and 100% of the printing inks are soy based.

This weather-proof quality is crucial. I like to write on the water or in the

eral thoughts that are at times the most profound.

Next month, we will continue our exploration of journaling, but, for now, I



Journaling on the shores of Chamberlain Lake, across the water from the rustic cabin where Peter Yesis will be the Allagash Wilderness Waterway visiting artist.

In the field, Peter will create sketches and color studies as the foundation for producing finished works later in his Searsport studio. Peter works in oils, his "soft, realistic style" sometimes edging toward impressionism.

within myself, to strive to capture the elusive in words.

I would propose that journaling can do the same for you.

Perhaps you've thought, *I wish I'd started journaling when I was younger. If only I'd written down the milestones and memories of that long backpacking trip or fishing adventure.* Maybe you are currently planning an unforgettable trip-of-a-lifetime. Or the urge is simply rising within you to record the passing of the seasons in your own backyard.

Peter has been chosen as the 2023 Allagash Wilderness Waterway visiting artist.

In the field, Peter will create sketches and color studies as the foundation for producing finished works later in his Searsport studio. Peter works in oils, his "soft, realistic style" sometimes edging toward impressionism. His paintings fill me with emotion. On the waterway, Peter will discover a landscape resonating with light and color; I cannot wait to see what he brings home.

Kim hopes to bring

show and tell. I write with a mechanical pencil in Rite in the Rain brand journals. Originally developed for timber cruisers in the state of Washington, these durable, spiral bound journals are truly tough and impervious to damp weather.

In the early 1900s, the special paper needed was created by individually hand dipping each sheet in a waterproofing solution. By the 1950s, a coating machine was manufacturing the only waterproof paper in the world for the company. In 2005, a patent was issued for a new environmentally friendly, water-based coating process. Everything is

woods, in all conditions. One afternoon jumps to mind. I was lying beneath my overturned canoe on a Webster Brook portage. Surprisingly comfortable, I strove to capture the essence of the violent storm that cracked uncomfortably close overhead. Only my arm, which couldn't quite fit, felt the wind and the pelting of the ice-cold rain.

Experience has taught me to stay current with my journal entries. If I get behind, writing becomes a chore. If time passes and I haven't kept up, I will sometimes just let it go. It's logical that immediacy equates to accuracy, capturing rich details and ephem-

will close with these words from Peter's website.

I enjoy the harmony of color in nature. I try to capture what I see but also express mood and sensory experience with color and light. I intentionally leave space for thought and reflection. My goal is to draw viewers' eyes to the underlying beauty as I interpret it, and hold their attention long enough so they can discover and feel something of their own.

With his gift for painting, Peter Yesis is striving to achieve what I am with words.



Laurie Apgar Chandler, author of *Upwards and Through Woods & Waters*, began journaling in high school. A worn hard-bound diary with a jeans pocket design contains her first travel journal, the impressions of a month spent in Mexico at age 17. For more information or to purchase Laurie's books, visit www.laurieachandler.com



The Short Lived Life of Three Wheelers

There is something special about a summer day in Maine, sun filled with clear blue sky and a cool breeze calming the heat. Days like this make me think of my late grandparents, Gram and Gramp. I can almost hear the “putter putter” of their 3-wheeler coming down the road, heading to the house from a day at camp, ready for supper and a refill of water jugs. My mother would put on a nice summer supper of fresh cucumbers and corn on the cob from the garden, ham, blueberry muffins, and “just out of the oven” pie... apple, strawberry, cherry, you name it. Then after supper I’d play a game of Yahtzee, cribbage, or cards with Grammy before she and Grampy headed back over to camp for the night, usually just before dark..

For a while, 3-wheelers were our primary mode of transportation to camp in the 80’s and early 90’s, seconded by a 4-wheel drive Chevrolet Blazer, silver with red seats. I remember a lot about the two 3-wheelers, but don’t have many pictures of them, or perhaps just haven’t put my hands on the right photo album yet.

The 3-wheelers were both Honda ATC90s (All Terrain Cycle). My family called them “doodle buggies.” One color reminded me of a green tomato and the other, a red tomato, which was a kind of an orangey red. Both ATCs had “Honda” spelled out in black block letters with a yellow background near the gas tank cover. They

used handlebars for steering, quite similar to that of a bicycle, and sported one round headlight. They donned a small tail light and small exhaust pipe that you could feel concentrated bursts of warm exhaust making a quiet “put put” sound as the engine idled. Designed like a tri-cycle, there was one front wheel and two rear wheels, mounted with balloon-like

I remember a lot about the two 3-wheelers, but don’t have many pictures of them, or perhaps just haven’t put my hands on the right photo album yet.

tires that had a lot of give in them.

While these were mainly designed for riding, they could tow a small load. I remember Gramp made a little high walled cart painted powder blue to haul essentials back and forth. I was young when we had 3-wheelers, so I can only remember riding

on them a few times, and never got to drive one. I remember hearing stories about people riding through brooks and streams, leveraging the buoyant tires and a burst of speed, seeing how long they could stay atop the water before being tossed off. Despite their big tires, 3-wheelers developed a bad history of accidents and frequency for injury tipping over. Though they

are small in size, it took a lot of counterbalancing in weight to maneuver uneven terrain, making them especially dangerous for children. In 1988 sales of 3-wheelers were banned in the United States. Years later it became increasingly difficult to find parts and as they aged and started to have issues needing

Sporting Journal columnist Matt LaRoche caught this big brookie this spring on a number 14 Elk Hair Caddis.



“The Trail Rider”

by Dan Wilson,
Bowdoinham, ME

replacement parts or tires, the only option was to find what you needed through salvage.

Though the era of 3-wheelers may have gone by, the age of ATVs and Side-by-sides is alive and thriving, making new

memories like mine for the generation ahead. Drive safely, responsibly, and enjoy the ride.

Daniel Wilson works in healthcare and enjoys time outside in nature with his family.

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Maine Outdoor Adventure

by Rich Yvon,
Bradford, ME

This June in Maine, we have had one of the wettest on record. After a healthy snowpack and melt, Maine is in the clear for any kind of drought, in the near future. Although high water can be more difficult to fish, the fish themselves benefit. High water flows contribute to

cubic feet per second. It has been as high as 25,000 cfs which is a springtime water flow condition. Our lakes, ponds, and rivers are full of water which will help us get through the hot, dry summer month of August. It will help keep water temps down as well as oxygen levels up. The

their food. Fish will tend to hold along banks, pocket ponds that exist from the main stem of the river. These areas tend to provide ideal resting areas as well as opportunities for food. Water flow and river levels can be found here at <https://www.usgs.gov>. This site can offer real-time and projected data for river flows as well as droughts, floods, earthquakes, and even volcanic activity data in the United States. If you

key to having a safe, fun adventure.

Last, but not least, is safety. Using common sense and staying safe from disaster is foremost. Whether in a boat or streamside, knowing the water you're fishing is most important.

Boating in high water can be equally as dangerous as in low water. Hidden

py to share my knowledge and experience to anyone, for a better day of fishing! On the water lessons are offered by Rich at <https://twinmapleoutdoors.com/contact-us/>. As always, remember to take a young person hunting or fishing to keep our outdoor heritage alive and well! In addition, please support your local tackle shops and small

Most fish in Maine, depend on water clarity to find and eat their food. Water clarity is important to both the fish and the fisherman. Fish such as Land Lock salmon and smallmouth bass are visual feeders.

ideal habitats with higher oxygen levels and typically a good food dump from flooded banks with submerged trees. As far as the fisherman goes, high water can be good or bad. In most cases, it all depends on one thing, water clarity.

Our Penobscot River this year is running very fast and deep. Typically, at the Enfield dam, our water in July runs around 7500

higher water flows this year is also helpful for promoting healthy fish and their wild reproduction.

Most fish in Maine, depend on water clarity to find and eat their food. Water clarity is important to both the fish and the fisherman. Fish such as Land Lock salmon and smallmouth bass are visual feeders. They rely on their eyesight to find or ambush

want to be automatically notified by email or text, you can create an account and set alarm notifications to inform you about changing conditions. When you are planning a trip, it's always a good idea to check conditions beforehand to know what to expect and prepare for. If you have scheduled a Guide, he or she should be able to fill you in as well before your arrival. Being in the know and prepared is always



rocks just below the surface can be a catastrophic event damaging a boat or worse, throwing passengers overboard. High water can hide dangers that normally can be seen. Boating in high water is certainly not the time to be in unfamiliar water. Taking the side of caution and respecting conditions will always pay off.

Streamside fishing is also another option in high water conditions. Using proper gear like a wading belt, studded wading shoes, wading staff, and a personal flotation device can be a lifesaver.

As in any outdoor activity, enjoying the outdoors with a buddy is not only more fun but safer as well.

If you would like more information on hunting or ice, fly/spin fishing techniques/strategies for bass, pike, salmon, and trout, please feel to reach out to me. I'm always hap-

businesses!



Rich is a full time Registered Master Maine Master Guide. He owns and operates Twin Maple Outdoors guide service and sporting lodge located in Bradford, Maine. He runs fly and spin fishing trips with a G3 Jet boat and Stealthcraft drift boat. Rich also guides Maine Partridge, Turkey, Moose, Deer hunting and recreation adventures. When Rich is not on adventures, he serves as a board member for the Native Fish Coalition, Maine chapter. He is also an outdoor writer, tree farmer, fly-fishing instructor, and certified NRA firearms instructor." For more information about the Maine outdoors, please contact Rich at: Call: 207-907-9151 Email: info@TwinMapleOutdoors.com Visit: <http://www.TwinMapleOutdoors.com>

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The Way Hunting Should Be

The Philbrick Tote Road Shanties

On J. H. Stewart's 1895 *Map of Piscataquis County*, there are two farms, the Norton Farm and the Philbrick Farm, which the lumbermen referred to as shanties, located on the Philbrick Road, a tote road that connected Brownville with the Twin Lakes. Both shanties offered berth and board to lumberman, fishermen, hunters and trappers. From an article, "At the Philbrick Shanty," written by J. A. Thompson of Bangor and published in the *Maine Sportsman* in Jan. 1903, we learn that "Philbrick had selected a magnificent site, right under Wilkins Mt.," which is today Big Wilkie Mountain. "Building a fine set of camps and clearing up a productive farm...guests would partake of some of "Mother Philbrick's" excellent cooking."

This story was included in the article.

Bert's Revenge

Hunting along the shore of Pleasant River one day just below the shanty, I caught sight of two men slowly poling a canoe up the river. Approaching nearer and nearer, they at last caught sight of me, and

asked me where the shanty was, and if they were at the best place to "take out," as they wished to get into the Nahmakanta tote-road and carry to the upper Jo Mary.

Telling them that it was the best place at which to take out, and helping them into the tote road, I found that they intended

they had two deer cut and hanging in the trees nearby, Bert asked them for a small piece of meat for a smother. Would they sell it? O, yes. How much? One dollar and fifty cents.

Bert wasn't going to take it, but I was so mad at the imposition and cheek of the thing, that I stepped

Two weeks later Bert and I met them at their camp on the middle Jo Mary, and as we had got no venison as yet and they had two deer cut and hanging in the trees nearby, Bert asked them for a small piece of meat for a smother.

to hunt and trap that fall on the three Jo Mary lakes. As they appeared to be rather poor, I asked them to dine with me at the shanty. After a hearty dinner they resumed their carry into the Jo Mary.

Two weeks later Bert and I met them at their camp on the middle Jo Mary, and as we had gotten no venison as of yet and

right forward and said, certainly we would take it. Taking the meat and paying a dollar and fifty cents, we left. Never did I come in contact with hunters, before or since, who would not have said, "Boys, take all the meat you want. There's plenty more of it in the woods. Take enough now."

After a successful



Old Tales from the Maine Woods

by Steve Pinkham
Quincy, MA

week's hunt about Jo Mary, Bert and I returned to the shanty. We had been back about a week, when one day at dinner time, who should show up but our two hunters, one with a badly cut foot. After dinner they asked Bert what the bill would be.

thrown them away, and you haven't had very much of a chance to spend them. And until you give me back that ill-gotten money, your rifle stays right here," at the same time seizing one of the rifles.

They at last found it was no use, and paid Bert the money. Stepping to my side, he said "Here is your dollar and fifty cents, and I'm glad to send it to you. Now you fellows weren't even, and I want you to bear this in mind: "It's a long road that has no turn." Go—don't you ever step foot in this shanty again!" And they never did.



Steve is an avid hiker, paddler and historian, having collected over 30,000 Maine Woods articles to date.



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Preparation Equals Success.

Top tips to get ready for a successful moose hunt this fall.

By Nathan Theriault

It's time to start thinking about that once in a lifetime hunt, the Maine moose hunt. We've probably been thinking about it long before now, at least I'm guilty of that. Here are some tips on how you can prepare yourself to have the best outcome for your hunt. Keep in mind many people choose to employ an outfitter to handle most everything we are going to be discussing.

Pre-Hunt Preparation & Lists

Being prepared is probably the most important aspect of any hunt that you will ever go on. This has everything to do from planning for your hunt, packing for your hunt, scouting for your hunt, executing your hunt and how you handle the hunt after you have successfully harvested your animal. The last thing you want to do when you're on the hunt is have that moment you tell yourself I wish I hadn't forgotten that.

The best way to keep from having a moment of regret is to make a list. You can either write it down on paper or use your phone. This stage of the process can start years before your hunt. One great way to

get ahead of it is to talk to people that either already have a list or that participate in hunts every year. We are currently going into our 20th season as an outfitter, and we still use lists to this day. It's something we will always do, and we also continually add to it.

Packing for your hunt is something that you might want to start weeks before your hunt. Now, I probably wouldn't recommend packing food unless it's not going to spoil. Packing gear like pack frames, knives, game bags, rope, hunting clothing and non-perishable items are a good way to start. Remember, the earlier you pack the less likely you are to forget something.

Scouting

Scouting for your hunt can be very exciting, probably even more exciting than packing. The amount of time put into scouting should equal the goals for the size of the trophy that you're looking for. In other words, if you have your heart set on harvesting a mature, trophy, bull moose you should be prepared to

put in 100% more time scouting then you will be hunting.

The state of Maine boasts an extremely high success rate for harvest at around 70%. Some of the people that have lived here their whole lives have seen the days when it was much higher. The lower success rate has been attributed to

is commonly overlooked is hunting pressure. While you're scouting it's not uncommon to be the only one there. During the hunt in some locations, you may find that other people have been scouting the same spot. Setting trail cameras on roads to observe traffic can help you know this vital piece of intel.

You've located your target animal. Understanding wind direction along with ways in and out of the area will be critical to your success. This means having different places to park so when you're walking into the spot the wind will be in your favor. While scouting in your area try to have as little impact as possible so not to disturb the moose in the area. The last thing you want to do is blow up the spot prior to your hunt.

Packing Out

Now is the time when all the planning and preparation meets the pavement. You've planned, packed, scouted and now you're on the hunt that you've been waiting for a lifetime. When you put all those pieces into place and the moment of truth arrives and you seal the deal on the bull of a lifetime the work is just beginning.

Having a plan for extraction is almost as important as the time that you spent scouting. It's important to get the hide off the animal so it can cool down and you can have the best tasting meat available. Caping and quartering is by

far the easiest and safest way to extract an animal. It's a technique that's been used for years and is easy to do. Information is available online that can help you gain the knowledge you need to execute a clean cape and quarter job.

Another after-the-hunt aspect is having secured a processing facility and taxidermist. Prior to having been successful it's best to have thought about how you would like your meat processed. It's also a good idea to have put some thought into how you would like to do to preserve your trophy after the hunt.

Nathan Theriault is the owner of OMM Outfitters and dedicated to helping clients make great memories and meet and exceed their life-time goals. OMM is an education, entertainment, and hospitality company providing extraordinary outdoor adventures including great service, world-class outfitter standards, attention to details, high quality, even perfection in every aspect including the food and lodging. All with a smile! OMM's enthusiastic staff love the outdoors and wildlife and are goal focused as it energizes and guides clients to their desired outcome. OMM also adheres to and shares the ethical traditions of the outdoors including the respect for wildlife, the environment, and landowners. Ingrained values like, constant learning, honesty, integrity, commitment, perseverance, love for God, family, and country are believed and taught to achieve the OMM mission.



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Flickers

This spring and summer I have enjoyed watching the behaviors of the Yellow-shafted Flickers at my home in Cooper, Maine. In April I knew

back of their heads. Their white rump patch is very conspicuous when they fly. The flight is less undulating and more steady than that of other species of wood-

stick their heads out of the hole. It is a lively competition. The parents make a "wick-wick-wick call and a squeaky "flicka-flicka-flicka" when they arrive to feed them.

Unlike other North American woodpeckers, Yellow-shafted Flickers are mostly ground-feeding birds. I sit on my back steps and watch them catch the ants on my dirt driveway. They have tongues that ex-

The Bird Perch

by Karen Holmes,
Cooper, ME



Red-shafted. The Red-shafted are western species and the Yellow-shafted are eastern species. They can breed together. A Red-shafted has a much grayer head and nape and lacks the red crescent. The male has a red mustache. Then there is the Gilded Flicker of the Southwest. It has an

return here in late March or early April always rejuvenates me as they announce the welcome arrival of spring.



Karen Holmes lives in Cooper, Maine. She has to spend more time around

The male has a black mustache. Yellow-shafted Flickers are handsome birds. They have black and brown barring on the back, buffy-white underparts spotted with black and a broad black necklace.

they had returned because I heard drumming on the roof of one of our buildings. It sounded like a drum roll because the roof is made of metal. I had two males and a female. The males did head-bobbing. This visual display can be used by flickers as part of a courtship display or a territorial dispute.

One flicker succeeded in winning the female. He gave a "woika woika" call and raised his breast while bobbing his head up and down and side to side. He lifted his wings slightly to expose the bright golden yellow of his underwings and tilted sideways to reveal the same color under his tail. You are able to tell male from female flickers very easily.

The male has a black mustache. Yellow-shafted Flickers are handsome birds. They have black and brown barring on the back, buffy-white underparts spotted with black and a broad black necklace. They have gray crowns with a red crescent on the nape,

peckers.

I think every year the same flickers return here as I read they can mate for life. There is a hole in a certain tree they like to use for nest building. I find fresh wood chips at the bottom of the tree from their fresh excavation attempts. There usually are 7-9 eggs that are incubated for 11-12 days by both parents. After they hatch, the babies squeal for food and

tend nearly three inches beyond their long and down-curved bills which are certainly good for catching ants and other insects! We have a new brown packed driveway and this loose material is used often for dust bathing! I bet they are getting rid of lice. Birders need to examine carefully any Flickers they see.

In field guides now you will find there are Northern Flickers divided into Yellow-shafted and

all brown head and a gray face and the male has a red mustache.

Now you can understand that if any of these subspecies interbreed, the hybrids can be interesting and confusing! Once the cool weather of fall comes, the Flickers migrate. They cannot find insects as our winters are severe and cold. Sometimes they will feed on fruits and seeds as they fly south. Their calling and drumming when they

her home as she has difficulty with walking and balance. And her husband is being treated for bladder cancer. Hopefully this will all change for positive outcomes this summer. She loves gardening and planted all sorts of flowers and vegetables this year. One garden has many species of milkweeds and flowers for pollinators and butterflies. She still is the Washington County, Maine Annual Loon Count Coordinator.



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The Buck Hunter

by Hal Blood,
Moose River, ME



August brings us another month closer to deer season. While most people think of August as the height of the summer, us hunters are beginning to focus on fall hunting activities. Bear season comes first and this year, most of the first week is in August. A lot of people will be hauling bear bait into the woods in anticipation of bringing in a bear to put meat in the freezer. This has been one of the rainiest summers that I can remember in northern Maine, which means there should be a bumper crop of all the natural foods. This may make it a little tough for the sweets to compete with all the natural food. It will be a bonus for the hound hunters as the bears should take their time hibernating as there should be plenty of natural food for them to eat.

Bear season rolls right on into moose season and the way the seasons are set this fall; hunters will be trying to fill their tags from the last week of September through early November. That means some hunters could be hunting moose and deer at the same time.

It will be interesting to see how the success is on the adaptive cow hunt in zone 4. Winter mortality was low, so there should be a good population of young moose going into fall. If you're a lucky tag holder, don't expect that there will be moose hanging around the roads. Even the cows are road shy or the ones

The next morning, I made my coffee, jumped in the truck with my Lab Sophie and headed for the hills with raingear packed.

that weren't, have gone the way of the dodo bird. Plan on burning up some shoe leather to find a moose and be prepared to get one out in pieces if necessary. Better to plan ahead for your moose hunt then scrambling to figure out how to get one out after it hits the ground.

Whenever summer rolls around, I always have a list of chores to do. Some years, the list is longer than others, but there is always a list. My list of things to do this summer has dragged on as the rains have limited how much I could get done outside. One of the most important things that I try

to do in the summer is to keep walking to stay in shape. The rains had been limiting that for me as well until I finally realized that I was falling out of shape. As I've said before, it's a lot harder to get in shape than it is to stay in shape. Between the heat and the rain, I was using it as an excuse to not walk until one day I said to myself that I would go the next

morning, no matter what the weather had in store. The next morning, I made my coffee, jumped in the truck with my Lab Sophie and headed for the hills with raingear packed.

I combined my walk with a little moose and deer scouting, got caught in a few rain showers, but had the best piece of mind in a while. I can't explain it other than to say that I just felt like I had accomplished something. That might sound a little silly, but I could have sat around looking out the window for another week or two procrastinating. So, what did I accomplish in those

Summer Walk In The Woods

few hours of walking and driving to get there? I saw a fawn by itself running around a logging road on the way in. I wanted to check some two-year-old cuts for moose sign as I have a client to guide in this zone for the October moose season. I walked a couple miles back in on a discontinued logging road, looking for moose tracks. I made a big loop through the cuts again looking for sign. There wasn't much moose sign, but I did see plenty of deer sign. I also walked up on two bucks in the cuts. I would say that they were 2 ½ year olds sporting pretty nice racks. I naturally filed that away in the back of my brain for further review.

So, here's what I accomplished in a short three hours: I got to see a new fawn. I saw a hen partridge with some chicks, (rare this wet year). Crossed one

place to moose scout off my list. Found good deer sign, where there hadn't been much for a while. Saw two bucks to confirm it was a good spot for deer hunting. Got my legs stretched out and my cardio rate jacked up a little and spent some quality time with my dog. Made a commitment to go out on a walking trip at least every other day until hunting season. And lastly, I got my mind off all the other things on my to do list! Pretty good accomplishments if you ask me. I learned a long time ago that there is never the perfect time to start something, so start it now.

Until next month:
Good luck on the trail!



Hal is a Master Maine guide and Author. He lives in Moose River, Maine with his wife Deb. Hal can be contacted at: hal@bigwoodsbucks.com

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After running the Allagash with his father, 10 year old Zach Viera takes a moment to thumb through the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is the son of Matthew Viera.

The Invaders



I have read a lot lately about invasive species. If you Google the words you get the following quote. "Invasive species are animals or plants from another region of the world that don't belong in their new environment." One of the invaders most outdoor people are familiar with are ticks. Old timers like me remember when ticks were something that happened in another part of the country or the world. But, no more!

But the invaders outdoor people are usually talking about are an animal of some kind that they think should not be here. Whether or not that animal is actually an invader is subject to the viewpoint of whomever is considering it. I had an experience with an invader that really irked me, but not everyone would agree that it is an invader, I don't think.

Our property in central Maine consisted of over

100 acres made up mostly of woodland. We lived there for over 50 years and with my love for the woods I would say that I knew that property very well. Part of that woodland was a small hardwood ridge that consisted of mostly beech and oak trees. I loved that little ridge because it was like a magnet for deer who frequented it in the early fall each year fattening up on the nuts that littered the ground.

Then the invaders came and all that changed. Deer no longer visited my little ridge! Why you might

ask. It was because the nuts were no longer available. They were gone. Yes, they continued to fall to the ground, but as soon as the fell they were picked up by the invaders. Some may have guessed by this point that the invaders I am talking about are turkeys.

Now I know that turkeys are an important game animal for a lot of hunters in Maine, so I will make it plain here that I am not anti-turkey or any thing like that. No, I used this story to illustrate that invasive is, like beauty, in the eye of the beholder.



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Northwoods Voyager



by Gil Gilpatrick,
Brunswick, ME



So, what constitutes an invasive animal? Is it one that someone mistakenly introduced like the white perch that someone put into Moosehead Lake a some years ago? Or, is it an animal that migrates into our state on its own accord, like the coyote. As I understand it the white

the coyote completely gone from Maine. They migrated in naturally and, if they go, they should go the same way.



Gil Gilpatrick is a Master Maine Guide, and is the first living recipient of the Legendary Maine

Then the invaders came and all that changed. Deer no longer visited my little ridge! Why you might ask. It was because the nuts were no longer available.

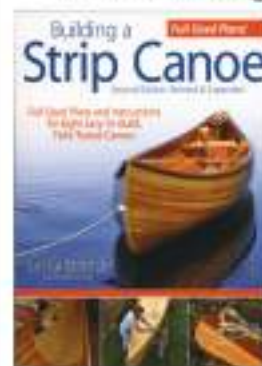
perch died out without any permanent damage to the ecosystem of the lake. The coyote, however is still with us and seems to me to be here to stay.

I know there are those who would like to completely wipe out the coyote in Maine, lots of luck with that, but I feel the same about that as about any animal in Maine that is hunted. Hunt away as long as the resource can stand it! But no, I wouldn't want

Guide award. He is a life member of the Maine Professional Guides Association, a founding member of the Maine Wilderness Guides Organization, and served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Licensing of Guides from 1996 to 2010. He is a member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association and is the author of seven outdoor-related books. Contact him at Gil@GilGilpatrick.com

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THE BACK SHELF

From the files of the Northwoods Sporting Journal
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By V. Paul Reynolds

A big target, a moose. What do you aim for? There have always been different schools of thought on this question. Wives tales abound.

Moose are Maine's largest big game animal by far. Bulls have been known to top the scales in excess of 1,000 lbs! Because of their sheer size and body mass, they can be difficult to put down, even with a high-powered rifle - if shot placement is not good. For ethical, as well as practical reasons, moose hunters need to zero in their rifles carefully and practice their marksmanship at various distances long before the fall hunt of a lifetime. Shot placement is key, even more important, really, than the caliber of choice!

Big Target

A big target, a moose. What do you aim for? There have always been different schools of thought

on this question. Wives tales abound. "Shoot for the hump. That will put the animal down fast," it has been said. In his book, "Moose Hunting," Aroostook County moose guide



and author Dave Kelso strongly advocates what he calls "the collar shot." He writes, "Over the years I have found the best possible shot to take on a moose is in the neck, a comparatively large target. Within the neck you have major arteries and the spine, so even if you miss the spine, you will likely cause severe arterial damage."

Different Theories

Despite his years of moose-hunting experience,

Kelso seems to be a voice in the wilderness when it comes to his collar theory on moose shot placement. No other moose-hunt guides of those whose opinions we sampled agree at all with Kelso. In fact, to a man, these moose guides are all on the same page: a heart/lung shot behind the forward shoulder is the only way to go.

Despite his years of moose-hunting experience, Kelso seems to be a voice in the wilderness when it comes to his collar theory on moose shot placement. No other moose-hunt guides of those whose opinions we sampled agree at all with Kelso.

"My advice to hunters is take a lung shot, followed by another followed by another until the moose goes down. The lungs are a big target and a 30 06, 180 gr., solid copper bullet will destroy lungs and the more you shoot the quicker he's down."

- John Richardson, *Moose Guide*

"The average hunter. Shot placement to head or neck at close range can also be problematic based on

discussion with other professionals. Point of entry for a bullet is like a needle on a moose. Heart/lung broadside is the largest target there is and a killing one at that. We have witnessed wounds to the head and neck that are atrocious and negligent. A slight and imprecise hit results in a gruesome unethical shot.

Better to hit the vitals with bigger margin for error."

-Lee Kantar, *Moose Biologist*

"For the most part, clients arrive with an understanding of shot placement and vitals (heart/lungs) in a textbook way. We certainly discuss it before every hunt, regardless of species. However, when a hunter sees a trophy bull or any live moose for that matter for the first time, right in front of them, the initial reaction is - SHOOT! It's a classic case of buck fever but elevated to a higher degree I believe because of the nature of a moose hunt; it's a once in a life-

time opportunity for some that causes a panic shot and the complete breakdown of shooting fundamentals."

- John Floyd, *Moose Guide*

In the realm of moose-hunting ethics, there is another consideration: shot followup. Because of the sheer size of a moose, even after a well-placed shot, there may not be tell-tale indications, like hair or blood, at the site of the shot taken. It is imperative that moose hunters do a meticulous, exhaustive followup to determine whether the moose was hit. In most ground conditions a moose is quite easy to track.

Maine's fall moose hunt begins in September. Good luck to those fortunate enough to have drawn a moose permit. Hunt safe!



The author is editor of the "Northwoods Sporting Journal." He is also a Maine guide and host of a weekly radio program - "Maine Outdoors" - heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on "The Voice of Maine News - Talk Network." He has authored three books; online purchase information is available at www.maineoutdoorpublications.com or www.sportingjournal.com Contact email- vpaulr@tds.net

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Educating Black Bears



Bears get to know every detail of the bait site. (Photo by V. Paul Reynolds)

Arguably the most intelligent wild animal roaming the Maine forests are black bears. They can pick up on and decipher the slightest of details around their home range. It's the black bear's incredible knack for drawing conclusions and showing good judgment that makes it near impossible for a hunter to shoot one overlooking a bait barrel.

One of the state of Maine's black bear Biologist's, Randy Cross, has proven that black bears have a keen ability to reason. I'll never forget what he told me during a telephone interview, some many years ago now, Randy told me that the black bear is the most intelligent animal living in the Maine woods. This may help shed some light upon the reason why nine times out of ten the black bear always wins during a baited hunt. We are educating the black bears when trying to bait one in for a shot.

By August of every year black bear hunters in Maine have spent, on average, \$600 and upwards of

\$1,200 dollars on barrels full of trail mix, candies, cookies, peanuts, donuts and just about anything else a black bear will eat. This amount of money spent on bear bait nearly doubles and in some cases triples when a Registered Maine Guide opens up bait sites for their clients.

I understand that many folks don't agree with or understand the way of baiting black bears. Perhaps they were never educated on the subject. Then again maybe they were and really just don't like the fact that many of us hunters like to pursue the highly intelligent black bear with the help of bait. I will not be the last person to mention that placing bait with the intent to kill a black bear does not guarantee success. Approximately 90% of black bear hunters perched up in a tree stand thirty yards from a bait barrel sit for days and weeks watching nothing but red squirrels and porcupines. Even then after a paid client has sat overlooking a guide's bait site for six days they might go home

and never have seen a bear. There will never be a guaranteed slam dunk baited bear hunt. Why? You might ask. The answer is simply that the black bears knew the hunter was in that tree the whole time. Usually less than an hour after the guide and hunter have left the site black bears are into the bait devouring every last crumb. Those bears know everything going on around that bait.

These wild animals' sense of judgment allowing them to make good decisions saves their lives. I believe this is one of many reasons why black bears have the longest life expectancy among the wild mammals living in the Maine woods.

If a hunter baiting black bears is not sticking to the same routine each and every day then any black bear going to that bait is most likely not consistent themselves. They probably are visiting the bait site under the cover of darkness knowing that the strange two legged critter that brings food shows up at any random time



On The Prowl

by Justin Merrill,
Cherryfield, ME

throughout the day. If you want a daylight black bear make certain you only bait in the morning hours each and every day. Be sure to wear the same boots and gloves into the bait site. Never stray from the path you take to and from the bait. Don't disturb the site around the bait barrel or bucket. Be sure to leave

the temperature making it more comfortable for black bears to roam the forest one of the black bears might show up in the last hour of daylight. This is every black bear hunter's hope.

Like mentioned earlier there will never be a guaranteed kill at any bait site. Black bears are too darn smart and witty.

Randy told me that the black bear is the most intelligent animal living in the Maine woods. This may help shed some light upon the reason why nine times out of ten the black bear always wins during a baited hunt.

those fancy scents at home unless a driving rain has washed out the attractant scents and oils you used to open up the bait site. Then it's necessary to freshen the site with the same exact scents you used upon opening up the bait site. Any random change at the bait site will put big mature black bears on high alert. The idea behind only baiting in the morning is that come evening when the sun goes down dropping

They can elude the most accomplished hunter on the planet.



Justin is a member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association (NEOWA) and the author of "Wild Maine Outdoors – Hunting Tactics, Tricks & Secrets". He is the owner of the YouTube channel, "SPIKES and GILLS". You can learn more by going to the website, www.wild-maineoutdoors.com



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New Hampshire Outdoors

by Peter St. James,
Warner, N.H.



Well, here we are again. The month when anglers look for the cool, aerated spots in ponds and rivers for the trout and salmon. And it's the thirty-day countdown to another hunting season. Both good reasons to get cranked about getting outside!

Speaking of salmon however, just weeks after the annual Winni Derby was held on Lake Winnepesaukee, it was announced that the 2024 Winni Derby will be cancelled. Ray Meyer the Tournament Director said, "At a meeting with Fish & Game, the fisheries biologist present-

ed some startling statistics about the health of the landlocked salmon population. We have decided to cancel the 2024 event and allow the state biologist and her team to collect additional data in an off-year to see how the population is doing before deciding to move on. As good stewards of the environment and adhering to good conservation practices, we feel this is the right decision. The Daniel Webster Council looks forward to producing the event again in the future and maintaining its stature as a premier fishing event in the Lakes Region."

Hope For New Hampshire Salmon

NH Fish and Game Inland Fisheries Chief Dianne Timmins said, "Lake Winnepesaukee and other landlocked salmon fisheries are only possible due to the extensive sampling and management efforts by

practices and assistance from partners like the BSA will serve to improve the fishery to more balanced levels experienced before the recent decline."

Bear season opens on Friday, September 1st and,

We have decided to cancel the 2024 event and allow the state biologist and her team to collect additional data in an off-year to see how the population is doing before deciding to move on.

NHFG. In fact, landlocked salmon are not native to the state, despite the fact that this popular species has been managed specifically for sport fishing for over a century. Recent challenges with regard to stocked salmon survival in Lake Winnepesaukee have resulted in poor age-class structure and thus reduced numbers of landlocked salmon available to anglers. Because landlocked salmon are a fast-growing, fast-maturing species, given the current high availability of rainbow smelt (primary forage for salmon), we are hopeful that just a few years of consistent size at stocking

without the aid of bait or dogs, runs through through November 30th except in the following WMU's : A, B C2, D1, H1, H2 and K will close on November 10th. Seasons with the aid of bait and with the aid of dogs have varying opening and closing dates depending on the WMU. Four of the WMUs are closed to hunting with the aid of dogs. Check the New Hampshire Hunting Digest for specific dates. Beginning with the 2024 bear season, no person shall take more than 2 wild black bear in a calendar year, as follows: (1) One bear shall be permitted to be taken statewide; and (2) One bear shall be permitted to be taken only in wildlife management units C1, D2, E, or F. So make a note and start planning.

New Hampshire's 2022 deer seasons resulted in the highest harvest in the past ten years and the third largest in the state's history. The newly adopted proposals call for increased hunting opportunity in 13 of the 20 WMUs. Those additional either-sex hunting opportunities are in WMUs : D1, D2E, D2W, G2, H1, H2, I1, I2, J1, J2, and K.

In addition, the number of Unit L tags has been increased to 3,000 through an online lottery that opened in July. Those successful in getting a Unit L tag will pay \$26.00. An antlerless deer may be taken during the Unit L archery, muzzle-loader, or firearms season by any legal method. Also available on a first-come, first-served basis are 8,000 Unit M tags. Four thousand applicants will get two (2) special antlerless deer only permits for Unit M at a cost of \$36.00. Deer may be taken in Unit M by any legal method during the muzzleloader, firearms or archery season. Check the New Hampshire Hunting Digest for season and legal method.

With the waters warming up the trout, salmon and lakers have moved to cooler spots. Find those and you may have some luck. But, fishing for small-mouth bass might be a good option. If you think you don't have the right rod, reel, spinnerbaits, jigs, crankbaits or tubes to get the job done, then take your fly rod. Streamers or popping flies that imitate frogs or large insects are great. And, smallie's are scrapers once they're hooked and prone to going airborne. Picture that on a fly rod!



Peter St. James is a member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association, Outdoor Writers Association of America and is a licensed NH Fishing Guide. He's at : stjames.peter@gmail.com

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Finding Food Purity

The easiest approach to consuming food is to eat whatever you want. The result of that can be that you are what you eat.

For me, it is extremely important to focus on knowing more about the source of my food. Where it comes from, how did it grow or live before it landed on my plate. I guess that is why eating fresh fish and game has always been so central to my lifestyle.

The original North American food system was based on harvesting wild plants and obtaining protein from nature. There were methods for growing and harvesting. My ancestors made full use of plants and animals, seeing that nothing went to waste. Plants from the wild were utilized not just for nourishment, but for medicinal purposes. Much of this has been lost and we need to move back in the right direction not only to improve our personal health, but to rid ourselves of outside forces that are constantly devising ways to destroy our food system.

The Europeans introduced wheat flour, dairy, cane sugar and even domestic animals. Prior to that, our food was indigenous and pure. Wild game from the land, fish from freshwater and the ocean, berries, fruit, and greens from nature. Our sugar was originally pure, honey and maple.

As this country attempts to create what they refer to as “plant-based” food, consider the fact that many of the ingredients required to make those foods are less than desirable. Now they even want to create meat out of chemistry vs. having a sustainably raised animal that lives a stress-free life.

I don’t know about you, but I am becoming more aware of the fact that the powers that be are doing more harm than good with their well-intentioned food inventions. Science does not always equal an improved reality. The answer is always found in nature.

As you recall, there was a time when nobody

read a food label, and most ate blindly, not knowing what they consumed.

There can be new discoveries for you in nature and even your own backyard. I challenge you to take charge of your own food destiny. Once your mindset is focused on these types of things, you will be amazed at how increasingly aware you will become, about so many things that go unnoticed.

The greens you have always considered weeds, may now be turned into an enjoyable salad. Hominy may become a substitute for GMO corn.

Consider taking a foragers class and learn about all the things that exist in nature. You may be surprised at what you learn and how it can become part of your healthier eating regimen. Each season offers a variety of great options, and flavors. From garlic scapes to fiddleheads, choke cherries, rhubarb, wild mushrooms, and spruce tips – there is a whole new world to discover.

Cookin’ With New England’s WildCheff

by Denny Corriveau,
Kennebunkport, ME



Now, before you think I’ve turned into a “Crunchy Granola” I want you to understand that it is more about finding purity in your ingredients that you will match up with the fish and game. I am promoting that you eat what lives and grows together as a means to better your health.

Obtaining heirloom seeds and starting a garden to grow a variety of items is a big step in the right direction. When the things that you eat have only touched your hands, it makes for a great quality check. You’ll notice that I used the word “heirloom”.

The last thing I want to mention is that there are places and people in the State of Maine that have committed themselves to growing and providing these types of pure ingredients like buckwheat flour and dry beans. Buckwheat flour is actually a herb, better related to rhubarb

and sorrel. It’s what is commonly referred to as a pseudo-grain since it looks and acts like a grain but is actually a seed rich in complex carbohydrates, and a great source of antioxidants. There is a company in Skowhegan called Maine Grains that produces this type of tremendous product. It could lend itself nicely to creative meals connected to what you harvest.

Baer’s Best in South Berwick grows over 20 varieties of heirloom beans that will integrate quite well with your fish and game dishes.

Whether it’s through foraging, growing heirloom veggies, or supporting those in Maine who are a resource to you, make the time to devote to this lifestyle, and you will surely be thankful. It will bless you in ways that far surpass the effort required.

(Purity cont. pg 52)

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Vermont Ramblings

by Dennis Jensen,
Vermont

I have a tendency now, in my later years, to reflect on those days and nights that remain so fresh in my memory. The most peaceful memories, so perfectly put in words by David Halberstam, are almost always reflected during the times when I went forth with a fishing rod in hand.

when I was alone, on the beach, fishing from the surf in Maine. We have traveled to the Pine Tree State, both during July and August, for more than 30 years. I have fished the beaches in Ocean Park and Saco for more than 25 years. It took a few years but, after trial and error, I believe I became a

gear and a cooler stocked with clams, I made my way.

There were nights when, out on the beach, alone, I would wonder at the evening and the tranquility that was mine. It was like I had the beach all to myself. And, in fact, I did.

While I kept close attention to both rod tips, illuminated by tiny glow sticks, I would occasionally look a mile north where

"I did not realize this at the time, but from the start, I was always at peace with myself when I fished."

- David Halberstam

I can clearly remember the day I took my first-born son Daniel fishing in a big lake in Northern New Jersey. I have a precious photograph of Dan holding up his first fish, a bluegill, and the big smile on his face. There were mornings, out on the beach in Ocean Park, Maine, with all three of my sons. Some days we caught fish; other days we did not. But all of those days remain some of the best in my life. But to be honest, the most peaceful times occurred

pretty darned good striper fisherman.

Almost all of the time, I would read the tides and, when possible, head out in darkness about two hours before high tide. In most cases, that would give me three good hours of fishing. I always carried too much stuff and the walk from the place where we stayed and where I found the best fishing was more than a quarter of a mile away. So, with two long surf rods, two sand spikes, a small pack back with water and

Old Orchard Beach and its pier were lit up like the Fourth of July. Then I would turn my attention back to the end of the rods, ready to leap from the seat and grab a pole and set the hook should a striper strike.

To be honest, there were nights, glorious warm nights, when hours would pass and the tides would take their turns, without so much as a bite. But, my friend, that is fishing. Sitting on the bait bucket, with the constant rhythm of the waves, there was then

At Peace With Myself



The author holds up a striper he caught in Saco, Maine, at night. (Photo by Stu Bristol)

a peace like nothing else I could know. If I happened to catch a striper, a fish of any size, I would light a celebratory cigar, a good cigar.

Sometimes, in my imagination, I would return to that ultimate fantasy, that long-kept dream, that on this very night I would hook into a truly big striper, say one over 35 or 40 pounds and I would be tested — in two ways. One, I would fight that big fish and bring it to shore. Two, I would decide, then and there, that the mighty fish must be returned to his place in the sea. No witnesses to the great catch, no pats on the back, no photographs, only the knowledge that I did what I did.

In any event, the night would pass and, hopefully, I would carry a keeper back

to the beach house, drop it in the refrigerator and then filet it early the next day. That afternoon, I would grill those filets and the large venison London broil I always packed along, just in case we could barbecue a genuine "surf and turf" meal.

I will return, even before these words get into print in the next issue of Northwoods Sporting Journal, to the Maine coast and I will set out, as I always do, with high hopes of success and a night of solitude. May you also find that kind of peace, of solitude, in your outdoor pursuits, whatever they may be.

Dennis Jensen is a freelance writer for three New England publications. Contact him at d.jensen62@yahoo.com

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Escape to The Dartmouth College Grant

My wife Linda and I love the Dartmouth College Grant, a 27,000 acre gated property owned by Dartmouth College. It is a working forest in far

simply get away as there is no cell service, no electricity and little in the way of human distractions.

The Dead Diamond River enters the Grant

appreciate.

The only time we see much activity is when there is an active logging operation going on. The rest of the time only an occasional vehicle passes by on the way to a cabin or a spot to



Outdoors In Vermont

by Gary W. Moore,
Bradford, VT

Locked gates control vehicle entries into the Grant, although foot travelers are welcome at any time.

A little history is offered to help those new to the Grant.

President Dwight D Eisenhower fished in the Grant in 1955 but a history of the Grant written by Jere Daniell and Jack Noon states that he visited and had lunch but did not fish.

Eisenhower was on his way to Parmachenee Lake across the line in Maine with a large entourage when he accepted the invitation of Dartmouth's President James Dickey to visit the Grant and have lunch.

As to fishing in the Grant, "Perhaps there will (Grant cont. pg 52)

You can fish all day without ever seeing another angler. The same goes for hunting. Solitude is what I appreciate.

hunt or fish.

The Grant has ten cabins spread out over several miles of roads providing quiet places to relax and bases for hunting, fishing, hiking and exploring the Grant.

The rustic cabins have gas lights, gas stoves and some have gas refrigerators. They all have wood stoves for heat and bunks for sleeping. They are furnished with dishes, pots and pans and cooking utensils. All one needs to bring is a sleeping bag and food.

It is the network of trails that I enjoy hiking with my wife and dog that often occupy some of my time in the Grant.

Dartmouth uses the Grant for timber production and recreational purposes.

In 1789, to encourage the Dartmouth College's development, the State of New Hampshire gave to Dartmouth College a grant of land in Clarksville, New Hampshire. Most of the land of this First College Grant was sold quickly to raise funds to keep the young college in operation. In the following years, the trustees of Dartmouth periodically petitioned for an additional grant of north country land.

In 1807, Dartmouth acquired the Second College Grant, a township of nearly 27,000 acres, by act of the New Hampshire legislature. It is the Second College Grant that we now call the Grant and which I and so many others love.

It is often said that



Linda Moore and Oak stand by the entrance to the Dartmouth College Grant during a recent visit.

northern New Hampshire providing many opportunities for recreating minus the crowds found in other popular areas.

I am a Vermont native and most of my hunting and fishing is done in the Green Mountain State, but living on the border of New Hampshire means I frequently cross the Connecticut River to also partake of what the Granite State has to offer and the Grant has been a favorite destination for decades.

I go there to fish and to hunt and, at times, to

from the north and twists down through Hellgate Gorge and approximately ten miles where it joins the Swift Diamond coming in from the west. Below the junction of the two rivers near the Diamond Peaks, the Diamond River plunges down through a deep gorge and then flows into the Magalloway River at the southeast corner of the township, next to the Maine border.

You can fish all day without ever seeing another angler. The same goes for hunting. Solitude is what I

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Maple Country Outdoors

by Ben Wilcox,
Essex, VT

What if I told you there is a Mayfly the size of a Hendrickson, that crawls onto shoreline rocks to emerge like a stonefly, and whose nymphs are predacious swimmers? Even better would you believe that trout often prefer to eat dry flies and swung wet flies over dead drifted nymphs?

Nymphs are around a size 12-16 with a slender body and bullet shaped head that allows them to swim freely.

Begin looking for shucks on the exposed rocks of large to midsized streams in late August as the nights begin cooling off. If you are lucky enough to find water below 70 de-

real peak but a trickle from spring all the way through October.

Fly fishing the Iso hatch is quite easy, and it's also my favorite hatch to guide new clients. Since the nymphs are free swimming and migrate to the banks to hatch, fly fishers can get away with pretty much anything when the trout are keyed into these bugs. Traditional dead drifted nymphs are not necessary. All an inexperi-

is effective to swing a soft hackle, a slender nymph is as effective if not more.

The best part of the Iso hatch is that many days the fish prefer to eat dry

and Pheasant tails all work well. When tying my own nymphs I tie a small marabou tail to imitate the dolphin like swimming motion of the naturals. As

Fly fishing the Iso hatch is quite easy, and it's also my favorite hatch to guide new clients. Since the nymphs are free swimming and migrate to the banks to hatch, fly fishers can get away with pretty much anything when the trout are keyed into these bugs.

The Isonychia Mayfly or Iso's as we call them here in Northern VT, are my favorite hatch of the season. Also known as Slate Drakes or Leadwing Coachmen, these large mayflies emerge very sporadically throughout late spring and summer culminating in a very solid hatch during late August through mid September. The telltale sign its time to start fishing Iso's is finding their shucks on the stream side rocks.

grees then it's time to get on the river. During abnormally warm weather years, opportunities may be limited early in the hatch due to elevated water temps. Luckily, the trout don't forget these bugs and Iso imitations are effective for weeks after the last Mayfly has emerged. Timing in other areas to the south and west may be quite different, with some streams seeing peak hatches in the late spring and others having no

enced angler needs to do is get the fly in the water and let it swing through a riffle! I prefer to dead drift an iso nymph through the lower part of the water column and then swing the fly out at the end of the drift.

This presentation allows the angler to drift a fly in front of less active trout sitting on the bottom, as well as target the active fish that are feeding on swimming nymphs throughout the water column. Trout are suckers for the nymph simply hanging in the current at the end of your swing. You will pick up extra fish by letting the fly hang static in the current below your position for 20-30 seconds before stripping the fly back to yourself. While it

flies from the surface over nymphs. There is a portion of the population that emerges in the water, and I do see Iso duns floating down the river here and there. Often, trout really key into Iso dry flies mid stream so if your swung nymph is not getting the eats you'd expect make the switch. I also seem to pick up a lot of fish just as the dry fly is pulled under the surface. Spinner falls can be quite productive, often happening quickly right at dark. This is a good time to find a suitable flat below a riffle and target individual rises.

As far as fly selection goes, the most important thing is getting the size of your fly right and then to a lesser degree the color. Zug bugs, Prince nymphs,

far as dries go, Parachute Adams, Irresistible Adams, Wulffs, comparaduns, will all work in grey, brown, rust, or even purple. Match the style of dry to the water conditions. Spinner patterns of the same colors will be productive. Flies should be sized 12-16.

As you can see, anything goes when fishing the Iso hatch. This easy to fish hatch is always welcomed after a long and hot summer, and kicks off a period of great fall fishing ahead.

Ben Wilcox is owner of Maple Country Anglers, located in Northwest Vermont. He is a current member of the USA Fly Fishing Team. He is a registered Maine Guide and graduate of the University of Maine. He also owns a large Maple Sugaring Business, Amber Ridge Maple. These occupations allow him to be in the woods or water nearly every day of the year. He can be reached at maple-countryanglers@gmail.com, or on instagram @ [benwilcox_maplecountryanglers](https://www.instagram.com/benwilcox_maplecountryanglers)



A late August wild Brown trout caught on an Iso dry fly.

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August – Getting Busy

Those of you who know me by my monthly diatribes, know that I am not a fan of hot weather. And the month just past was one of the tougher Julys for me. I spent a good three weeks mostly immobile after having a

cane, there is so much to prepare. To start with, I think I might make a day trip up into the headwaters of the Winooski to see if I can find any deep cool pools that might still hold a few native brookies. And then, it's home

August is a tough month to scout due to the heat and bugs, but it's a great time to start patterning the deer as the sun sets and the cooler air moves the wily whitetails into the fields.

hip replaced. But now it is August, and it is with renewed vigor that I anticipate climbing into my treestand, trudging through the primordial ooze of my favorite duck hole, and hiking the abandoned apple orchards on the side of the mountains. Honestly, I feel like a new man. I'm even contemplating hiking all the way up Old Baldy for rifle season. (For several years I haven't been able to walk more than 200 yards into the woods due to the pain – but now! Heck! I think I might even try skiing again! Anyway, now that I can walk without a

again to build the blind on the new duckboat and get her grassed up. I'll need a half dozen new 10' cedar posts for the new blind we're building for this season's duck opener. I've got to clean and polish all those full-bodied Canada goose decoys and stack them lovingly in the trailer. And of course, repair any aluminum tubes or rips in the layout blinds. I'll be putting up a couple of new treestands this year with my buddy Trevor and of course Chris "Dot Com" Thayer. And then there is the scouting that needs to be done. August is a tough

month to scout due to the heat and bugs, but it's a great time to start patterning the deer as the sun sets and the cooler air moves the wily whitetails into the fields. It's also fun to watch the bucks begin to shed their velvet. I guess that, despite my disdain for the heat, there is some very strong motivation to get moving again and prepare for "our time of the year."

I'm not sure exactly when this organization was chartered (I tried to google it and looked under state nonprofit charters and couldn't find anything – nor was it on their website) but it appeared in

Green Mountain Report

by Bradley Carleton,
Charlotte, VT



my daily news searches and I've got to say, I'm impressed. Turns out it's under the umbrellas of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The project's name is "Stream Wise" and their agenda on their website states they engage(s) streamside property owners in the Lake Champlain basin to enhance and protect vegetated stream buffers, increasing flood resiliency and benefiting water quality and natural habitat. Their advisory board is comprised of the

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Adirondack Park Agency, The Vermont Nature Conservancy and their partners are listed as Ausable River Association, Franklin County Natural Resource Conservation District, Franklin Watershed Committee,

(August cont. pg 53)

"Anglers in Vermont are fortunate to have world-class bass fishing for both species right in their backyard," said Bernie Pientka, fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife



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Grant

(Cont. from pg 49)

be another time," Eisenhower wrote in a thank you note to President Dickey.

He did fish the Magalloway above Parmachenee at Little Boy Falls where there is a bronze plaque commemorating the event.



Syndicated columnist

Gary W. Moore is a life long resident of Vermont and a former Commissioner of Fish and Game. His latest book, *Four Seasons in Vermont*, is available at many bookstores and sporting goods shop or from him directly. He may be reached by e-mail at gwmoore1946@icloud.com or at Box 454, Bradford, VT 05033.

Purity

(Cont. from pg 47)

WildCheff's Hickory Smoked Bear Burger

Ingredients

1 lb. bear burger
2 Tsp. Of WildCheff Hickory Smoked Powder
1/2 T of WC Beer Cheese Powder
1/4 C OF 4C gluten-free breadcrumbs

1/4 Tsp. each, sea salt and fresh ground pepper

2 T of olive oil

Directions

In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients so they are evenly mixed.

Form meat into slider sized burgers.

Heat outdoor grill to 400 degrees.

Grill and flip once

until burgers are cooked to your liking.

Top with your favorite toppings and bbq sauce.



WildCheff - Denny Corriveau is an award-winning National Game Chef, Metis First Nation Chef, and the Founder of the Free-Range Culinary Institute, the only national wild game cooking school in the country. You can learn more @ www.wildcheff.com or visit him on Instagram @ [@thewildcheff](https://www.instagram.com/thewildcheff) or Facebook at @WildCheff



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August

(Cont. from pg 51)

Friends of the Winooski River Inc., Lake Champlain Committee, Lamoille County Conservation District, Missisquoi River Basin Association, Organisme de bassin versant de la baie Missisquoi, and Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. They provide consultation to landowners whose property encompasses streams that feed the basin. They offer everything from riparian habitat, shoreline stabilization, guides for stormwater management for individuals as well as small businesses. Check out their website at <https://streamwisechamplain.org/about/> and share your opinions. Be advised that this organization does not appear to be one that we have to fear will compromise our rights or passion. It appears that if we were to embrace the programs that they offer, our streams, would indeed, be healthier fisheries.

22,000 antlerless deer permits will be issued for the 2023 Muzzleloader Hunting Season. You'd be wise to apply early. The drawing for the permits will occur in September and the winners will be posted on our website. Deadline to apply is August 2, 2023. Apply for a Permit Online (there will be no paper applications available this year). Hunters must apply online for an antlerless muzzleloader permit and will do so through the online license sales system as if they were purchasing a license or a tag using their Conservation ID number, or CID#. Landowners who do not have a Conservation ID number will need to create a profile through the

online license sales system to apply for a landowner application even if they do not intend to purchase a hunting license. **Permanent and lifetime license**

holders will apply through the online license system as well. Landowners who post their land **may not apply** for a muzzleloader landowner priority antler-

less deer permit. For questions call 802-828-1190 or email Cheri.Waters@vermont.gov



Bradley Carleton is

the founder and Director of Sacred Hunter.org which teaches the public respect and empathy through hunting, fishing and foraging.



SPORTING CAMP CARETAKER NEEDED

FULL-TIME SPORTING CAMP CARETAKER NEEDED at the 30-acre sportingcamp formally known as Bowlin Camps Lodge in Maine. The camps are off the grid and rural, nestled in the woods approximately 30 miles from Patten, Maine. The 15 cabin and main lodge facility is private and operated for the sole use of one business, primarily for customer relationship-building events and their own corporate retreats and business meetings. The maximum guest occupancy on the property at any one time would approximate 40-50 people, but groups of 15 or fewer will be the norm. We are seeking a dependable individual who can spearhead our vision of creating a world-class outdoor experience for those who visit the property for business and entertainment. The individual must be accustomed to all four seasons in Maine and be comfortable working in the cold and snow. Good communication, problem-solving, and social skills are a must. Times without guests will be for a good part of the year, so the ability to staff up and manage a workforce for busier times of the year will be needed. Additionally, working effectively with the facilities department of the owning business will be necessary as we work on larger projects that need support. Duties include:

- Housekeeping, seasonal deep cleaning, turnover cleaning, and effectively operating a commercial kitchen and dining hall.
- The maintenance and operations of equipment, including diesel generators, solar panels and systems, wood stoves and heating systems, and propane heating and lighting systems.
- The maintenance of grounds, roads, bridges, cabins and lodges.
- The maintenance and operation of tractors, backhoe, small fleet of vehicles, plow trucks, boats, snowmobiles, UTVs and other equipment.
- Mowing, weed whacking, bushhogging, snow removal, trap/skeet range operation, food plot and garden work, firewood collection, chainsaw work, wood splitting and the application of handyman skills are all common and routine activities on site.
- Painting and large projects (electrical, water lines, roads, construction) are also common activities.
- Protection of the grounds, building and equipment from fire, theft, vandalism, and trespassers at all times.

Salary will depend on experience, and compensation will include private caretaker housing on-site. Applicants must be in good physical condition, have professional references, be willing to do a background check and have a clean driving record. This is in a remote location with no services, so if you desire to go to town often, this is not the job for you. If you enjoy the outdoors and solitude of nature, this is an excellent opportunity. It is an outdoor enthusiast's dream! We seek long-term employees who take pride in their work and job.

Interested applicants should send their cover letter and resume to Matt Walsh at mwalsh@machiassavings.com



Marsh Island Chronicles

by Matthew Dunlap,
Old Town, ME

I don't typically do gear reviews. This is primarily because, as is illustrated here, I'm so far behind the curve on acquiring the latest and greatest that by the time I pick up what I think is something new and cool, all my friends laugh and say "Hey, Dunlap, welcome to the party," as they regard my Version One and show off their Versions Four and Five.

It is also less the case now that gear manufacturers peddle free samples to outdoor writers in hopes of favorable published reviews than it was when I first joined a couple of the professional writing associations, although that may precisely be because I tend to eschew doing gear reviews. Who knows.

In any case, some years back I wrote about my intent to pick up a self-cocking and launching clay pigeon thrower. If you don't keep up your skills at wingshooting, in

the moment of truth you might get lucky, but that's all it is. Recognizing that, I decided to acquire just the machine—the Trius One-Step®.

My intentions were good, but I am a procrastinator. Each of the last

**Once the trigger was tripped—it was ka-ZIING!
And the pigeon went flying away at roughly the speed
of a wood duck.**

couple of bird and duck seasons, I have done my part for conservation; I've purchased my license and waterfowl stamps, and when they come in, I give them a good scare and let them fly for another day. Deciding that being a good sport is fine and all that, but once in a while I'd like to enjoy a lordly meal of grilled grouse or duck breast, I finally took the plunge.

First, the price wasn't bad. Though I much prefer to shop locally, at the juncture when I made my decision to purchase firm,

none of my favorite local outdoor stores had one, so I gave myself permission to go online. I found one for \$105, which wasn't a bad deal. It showed up a few days later. It has to be assembled; you don't need much in the way of tools, but the tools you need, you *really* need. Somehow I located my two adjustable wrenches and had it assembled in about a half-hour.

Then, it was a mat-

The main spring is engaged by depressing the foot lever. At first, I thought I had made a mistake in the assembly—it seemed like it was stuck. But slowly depressing the foot lever revealed what was happening—the foot lever was loading the main spring to the throwing arm. Once the trigger was tripped—it was ka-ZIING! And the pigeon went flying away at roughly the speed of a

allowed me the opportunity to not only miss the first shot, but the follow-up one as well. Ammunition companies love shooters like me.

But then, I caught it. I readied myself; slowly pushed the foot lever down—ka-ZIING! I brought up the little Stoeger—*POW!* And a cloud of dust! *Lucky shot*, I thought. But then, again. And again. I wound up breaking 8 of my last 9 clays.

The score sheet wouldn't impress anyone. I broke roughly ten or twelve out of the twenty-five clays I launched. But I had a streak, it was fun, and my new tool performed flawlessly.

A few more trips into the field like that, and I may do more than scare a few birds this fall. Stay tuned.

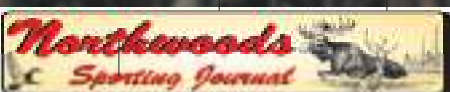


Matt Dunlap is a sportsman from Old Town and is a periodic co-host on Maine Outdoors, heard statewide every Sunday night at 7:00 pm on WVOM 103.9 FM, WVQM 101.3 FM, and WRKD 95.1 FM in Rockland.

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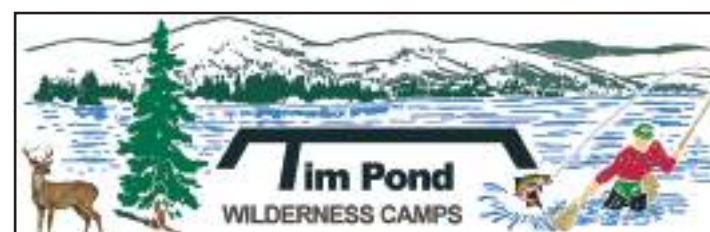
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Maine Fly Company



the joys and hardships of our respective endeavors.

I was impressed with Jeff's story. Located in Yarmouth, Maine, MAINE FLY COMPANY opened its doors in 2018. Since then, sales have nearly doubled each year. Jeff created the business to celebrate his father, who before his death had been an avid angler. After leaving the corporate world at age 44, the young

There is something unique about treading the same trails, wading the same rivers and streams, paddling across the same ponds and lakes as these intrepid souls.

entrepreneur established a business model dedicated to the heritage of Maine fly fishing that he hopes to pass down to his three sons.

Jeff compares his rod making to the many home-grown, craft beer breweries that have sprung up across the Pine Tree State. In his effort to celebrate Maine's sporting heritage, Jeff was not satisfied with a mass-produced product. In addition to himself, he's recruited a small, but dedicated, group of rod builders to handcraft the company's fly rods, each named after a river or region in Maine.

While keeping a balanced inventory, the MAINE FLY team builds "batches" in small quantities from a few dozen to more than a hundred fly rods. They begin with an initial design inspired by a trip to a favorite river or stream or one of the many regions of the state that captures their fancy. They use grips and designs that reflect the experience on the particular water where they have fished.

Although Jeff's team will make a rod to a customer's unique specifications, their present inven-



Against The Current

by Bob Romano,
Rangeley, ME

tory includes a 6'6" two-weight and a 7'9" three-weight. These small-stream delights are aptly named Little River. Then there is the brawny Casco Bay, a 9' ten-weight rod able to handle anything found along Maine's coastline.

the Moosehead Region's long-standing reputation as an angling paradise. As time goes on, the team at MAINE FLY COMPANY has become more and more specific with carbon compositions and the materials they choose.

My wife and I have owned a seasonal camp in the Rangeley Lakes Region of western Maine for the better part of our adult lives. During that time, I've written a number of books set in this part of northern New England, a place where native brook trout remain eager to snap a fly from your tippet and land-locked salmon continue to dance across the surface of pool and run. Although we were drawn to western Maine by its fish, it was the region's rich sporting tradition that captured our imagination.

Fred Barker, John Danforth, Cornelia Crosby, and Herbert Welch, as well as Wallace and Carrie Stevens, Colonel Joseph Bates, and Ralph and Louise Rich, are but a few of the colorful personalities who've contributed to the region's justly deserved nickname as the "Land of Fishing Legends."

There is something unique about treading the same trails, wading the same rivers and streams, paddling across the same ponds and lakes as these intrepid souls. The reason, I suppose, I've chosen this part of the country as the literary canvas against which to set my novels and short stories.

Maine's fly-fishing

fraternity is as closely knit as an Aran sweater. Guides, wardens, shop and lodge owners, sports and yes, even writers, will find themselves on the same pools and runs if they cast their flies for enough years under the shadows cast by balsam and spruce.

So, it was only a matter time before I ran into Jeff Davis, owner of MAINE FLY COMPANY. Jeff's company specializes in hand-crafted "small batch" graphite fly rods. I first met the young entrepreneur during THE FLY FISHING SHOW'S annual three-day extravaganza held each year in Marlborough, Massachusetts. I was there to sell my newest book when a friend asked if I'd been to the MAINE FLY COMPANY'S booth. I'd previously checked out their website, nearly pulling the trigger on one of their fly rods, a model named after the Magalloway, a river that I consider my home water. The price was quite reasonable, but then the Covid virus threatened the economy, putting my purchase on hold.

On the show's final day, I ambled over to Jeff's booth and introduced myself. It turned out my friend had told him about my books, and we spent a pleasant time discussing

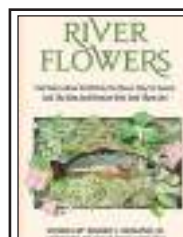
In between, are a number of rods in differing lengths and weights, with my favorite being the 8', five-weight, limited edition, Magalloway.

Jeff describes a rod built after his time on the Roach River. There was a stretch of stream where an additional six inches of length would have enhanced his ability to cast to that sweet spot, hence a rod constructed with a length of 9'6". A rust-colored blank was chosen to mirror parts of the old bridge outside the tiny hamlet of Kokadjo located in the Moosehead Region of the State where the Roach can be found. Wraps were inspired by the fall leaves, autumn being Jeff's favorite time to be on the Roach. It is the only rod on which he uses nickel silver for seat hardware as a tribute to

Jeff explains, "Each of our rods tells a story that is near and dear to us in some way."

Whether you prefer dead-drifting a nymph down a dark seam or swinging a wet fly through a set of rough-and-tumble riffles, or maybe you enjoy casting tiny dry flies to hard-headed brown trout or perhaps a big bushy Hornberg to unsuspecting brook trout, in any case, you'll enjoy a rod inspired by the rivers of Maine.

For more information about MAINE FLY COMPANY'S fly rods check out their website: maineflyco.com Jeff and his crew can be reached at 1-877-MEFLYCO or by email at: info@maineflyco.com Their store is located at 81 Bridge Street, Suite ELL3, Yarmouth, Maine 04096.



RIVER FLOWERS - by Robert J. Romano, Jr.

"Lyrical, poignant, and sometimes fantastical angling tales from the Maine woods and beyond, written in the great storytelling tradition of Sparse Gray Hackle and Robert Traver..." Stephen Sautner, author of *A Cast in the Woods and Fish On. Fish Off.*

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August Question Of The Month

Grand Brochet: A Dark Shadow in the North?

-Jesse C. McEntee

Introduction

A shadow lurked under my canoe; in my mind it was at least three feet long and it moved like a shark, eyeing my lure from the side. The stature of that fish has grown in my mind, thanks to the tendency for our memories to inflate the largeness of fish, whether we've landed them or not. For the next seven hours I caught nothing but fresh air. The Northern Pike is a survivor, a legend. The first one I ever caught was relatively small, but it put up a huge fight and as soon as it was close to the dock, its sharp teeth broke the 8 pound monofilament test line.

About the Northern Pike

They're long and narrow and their sharp teeth can cut regular fishing lines. Vermont allows fishermen to shoot pike as a means of taking. There's no shortage of opinions about this fish; these sentiments underscore the mysterious and - to some - sinister nature of the Northern Pike. Some say they're good eating, others say they're bad eating. Some consider them a nuisance fish, but for others it's their favorite target species. I'm drawn to this fish because of its storied reputation as an aggressive hunter; ever since it prowled under my canoe that day I've been fascinated with it.

Esox lucius is the scientific name for the Northern Pike. *Grand Brochet* (the French name for this species) can be found

across North America, but it's most controversial where it's been illegally introduced. Some fishermen love it; it is big, puts up a fight, and is exciting to catch. Others hate it since it competes with native species directly for food or by preying directly on fish to the degree that native populations are nearly eradicated.

Known as a freshwater shark, they are an ambush predator that prefer shallow weedy areas of mesotrophic bodies of water, often avoiding the fast-moving portions of rivers. This cool water species can live up to 26 years old and grow to 53 inches in length. Seven to 10 days after hatching, a pike can consume small fish, a particular problem for other species located in the bodies of water its been introduced.

Distribution

Globally, northern pike are a circumpolar fish, native to certain regions of North America, Europe, and Asia. Within the United States, they are non-native east of the Green Mountains, and have endemic populations through much of the US and in Canada. Most people think of pike primarily for their role in recreational sportfishing. Historically, notable commercial pike fishing existed in Canada, Finland, and countries of the former USSR.

Much of the controversy around the *Water Wolf* has to do with their introduction into new bod-

ies of water (either legally or illegally) where they have a dramatic impact on the local environment. In Maine, the latest drama is detailed in a Newsweek article entitled, "Invasive Northern Pike Terrorizes Maine Lakes" which describes the impacts its had on the Belgrade Chain of Lakes. Similarly, in the Western United States the pike was introduced into non-native bodies of water. Predictably, some people love it for the sport, while others detest it for its all-consuming ferocity in decimating other fish such as bass, trout, and salmon. Because people have been moving pike for sportfishing and food purposes for such a long time, it's been nearly impossible to know the species' origin. With genetic testing, however, scientists have confirmed that the pike's origins are in North America, reaching Asia and Europe over the Bering Land Bridge.

Heading North

For the past couple years, I've concentrated my fishing efforts on Lake Champlain and its tributaries. There's pike there, but also a lot of other species. Curious about what it would be like to fish an area that has a greater concentration of these fish I recently journeyed north to Quebec with my 14 year-old son. We planned a four day trip, targeting a couple remote lakes that have high concentrations of pike and walleye.

The Canadian Shield is a massive rock crust

that covers about half of Canada. When the Laurentian ice sheet receded about eight-thousand years ago, the boulders and debris it contained carved the formations we see in today's landscape across most of northeastern North America. Mountains, hills, lakes, streams, ponds, and rivers were all created. Fluvial dynamics continue

ultimately empties into the Saint Lawrence. The Rouge River flows north to south along the western side of the reserve, ending its journey in the Ottawa River.

Our off-grid cabin was located on an elongated 138 acre lake fed by the Rouge River in the northwest sector of the park. For those unfamiliar with

Globally, northern pike are a circumpolar fish, native to certain regions of North America, Europe, and Asia.

to re-define the regions' topography and in modern times, humans have influenced the flow of water across the region. Dams can be found throughout the rivers of Quebec and collectively, 94 percent of Quebec's electricity is from hydropower.

Situated at the southern end of the Laurentian mountain range is the *Réserve Faunique Rouge-Matawin*, a wildlife reserve that's part of Quebec's *Sepaq* park system. Covering 344,464 acres, it's a sizable chunk of land situated between the Lanaudière and Laurentides administrative regions. The *Réserve faunique Rouge-Matawin* is about three hours from Montreal and six hours from my home in VT.

Its namesake are the Rouge and Matawin rivers which flow through the reserve. The Matawin River flows west to east and is a tributary to the Saint Maurice River, which

the Quebec government's regulations around fishing quotas, planning a trip can be confusing; for example, before arrival we needed to indicate which bodies of water we planned to fish and afterward we needed to report weight and lengths of our harvests.

Prepared with leaders if needed, we opted to fish with our ten pound mono and a loose drag. On the night of our arrival we caught a twenty inch wall-eye, but no pike. Eager to get into the pike, we were on the water early the next morning and it didn't take long before our rods were bent. A heavy stringer in hand, we headed back to the cabin and fried up pike filets for dinner that night. While fileting them takes a little practice to get the "Y" bone out, they're a decent eating fish; I coated them in flour, fried them in olive oil, and seasoned with my "camp mix" (a mixture of salt, pepper, sugar, and (Question cont. pg 57)

Question

(Cont. from pg 56)
garlic powder).

I've been fortunate to fish a couple places in the world where the fish have been left alone for a long time. Fishing these areas is like hunting un-pressured deer; the pursuit still takes time, preparation, and focus, but you're allowed to witness your quarry in a more unspoiled state, competing with it in a way that differs from when you're trying to hunt in an area that is frequently fished. The second half of our trip yielded one of these paradisiacal experiences. We were fishing a smaller lake that hadn't been open to fishing yet this year and as I fiddled with the 2.5HP outboard, I told my son to cast next to a submerged spruce as we coasted by. Wham! First cast and a fish was on! Easily catching our limits for pike on this smaller lake, we had the unique luxury to deepen our understanding about this fish: which lures reliably produce, which habitat features they prefer, and other nuances that elevated our understanding of this species.

On the last morning of our trip, I was focused on a clump of lily pads, casting a large spinner bait right next to weeds. First cast: a big fish played with the lure, then bit, but shook free. Second cast: I caught a glimpse of it as it shook free of the hook next to our boat. The *Grand Brochet* splashed and dove back into the water, a dark shadow disappearing under the boat, its size growing in my memory.



*Jesse C. McEntee
lives in Underhill, Vermont.*

News

(Cont. from pg 30)
challenging mission in search of a missing person. This evidence would eventually lead to her recovery.

"I personally feel very fortunate to have such a devoted and hardworking officer who is committed to wildlife conservation and enforcement, and I have great confidence in Chris's abilities," said Fish and Game Law Enforcement Chief Kevin Jordan. "Chris is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done, and he is a man of courage and integrity."

Officer McKee leads his District in the number of summons and warnings issued. Due to a vacancy

near his patrol, he was asked to respond to over 400 calls last year. Officer McKee also makes the time to participate in details outside of his patrol area to include Joint Enforcement details along the seacoast and Stone Garden details in northern New Hampshire. Officer McKee is also an active participant in snowmobile and OHRV details.

The Conservation Law Enforcement Chief's Association (CLECA) is an organization made up of Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs from the states of Virginia to Maine, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, and Canadian Provinces. The primary purpose of the As-

sociation is to encourage and promote conservation law enforcement cooperation among the eastern states represented. Annually, CLECA recognizes an

officer from each state for their outstanding contributions to fish and wildlife protection of our country's natural resources.

(News cont. pg 61)

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We Defeated LD 814! - This Time.

by Gerry Lavigne

Each new legislative session brings a slew of proposed legislation, and the 131st Maine Legislature was no exception. Among the 2,000 or so new law proposals was one which would negatively impact Maine deer hunting and exacerbate coyote conflicts statewide. LD 814 was An Act to Restrict the Daytime

hunting of coyotes from April 1 to September 30, a 50 to 60% reduction in coyote hunting opportunity. In addition, LD 814 would criminalize anyone convicted of killing a coyote during the closed season, punishable by a fine of \$500 and revocation of their hunting license for a year.

Ironically, LD 814 had its genesis within the halls of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW). During 2021 and 2022, the Department began the process of updating its strategic plan for coyotes. As such, DIFW convened a steering committee and a technical subcommit-

trappers, hound hunters, a game warden, a DIFW regional biologist, other Department staff, and two anti-hunting proponents. I was one of the independent biologists, selected for my

help shape coyote management policy for the next decade and beyond. When I questioned this decision, I was told the agency wants to be inclusive of all viewpoints. Personally, I felt the

As written, LD 814 would close day and night hunting of coyotes from April 1 to September 30, a 50 to 60% reduction in coyote hunting opportunity. In addition, LD 814 would criminalize anyone convicted of killing a coyote during the closed season, punishable by a fine of \$500 and revocation of their hunting license for a year.

and Nighttime Killing of Coyotes. It was sponsored by Rep. Lynne Williams (D) of Bar Harbor at the request of Geri Vistein, a long-time anti-hunting activist who runs Project Coyote.org in Maine. LD 814 had 8 co-sponsors, all Democrats, all from urban/suburban House or Senate Districts in southern Maine.

As written, LD 814 would close day and night

Since 1972, Maine has allowed coyote hunting in the daytime all year, except on Sundays. Statutes allowing night hunting of coyotes were first allowed in 1983 and liberalized in 1985, 1988, 2009, and 2011 to their current dates (December 16 to August 31). It is noteworthy that 45 other states currently allow year-long coyote hunting; only four have a closed season along the lines of LD 814.

tee to evaluate potential management strategies for coyotes. The steering committee was comprised of a broad spectrum of stakeholders intended to represent all demographics affected by coyotes (small landowners, homeowners, farmers, animal welfare groups, hunters, trappers, industrial forest owners, hunting guides, sporting camp owners, etc). SAM had a seat on the steering committee.

The technical subcommittee was comprised of 4 biologists who were independent of DIFW,



With the demise of LD 814, these little ones will have a better chance to survive to maturity. Photo by Bob Dreher.

past research and management activities while at DIFW from 1975 to 2005. I was also selected because of my coyote hunting experiences since retiring from DIFW. It seemed inexplicable to me that DIFW would invite two anti-hunting activists to

steering committee was the place for such “inclusiveness”.

The several technical committee meetings may best be described as “contentious” at best. The two antis repeatedly derided coyote hunters and trappers, and both went on the record to say they want to see an end to all hunting and trapping of coyotes. Their alternate vision is to allow coyote populations to “self-regulate” and that people need to learn to coexist with Maine’s “Songdog”.

When it came time for the technical committee to evaluate Maine’s coyote hunting season structure, one of the antis initially proposed a complete clo-

(LD 814 cont. pg 60)

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A Change is Coming

Any honest assessment of what global warming is already doing to Maine's freshwater fisheries is alarming. Denial can only get us so far, but then we look around and see the proliferation of warm water aquatic plants like milfoil, along with warm water species such as largemouth

ance of species and affecting their growth, reproduction, and survival. Cold-water species, such as brook trout and Arctic char, may experience decreased suitable habitat as waters warm beyond their preferred temperature ranges. At the same time, warm-water species such

cial roles in fish spawning behaviors. As climate patterns become more erratic, with shifting ice-out and extended growing seasons, fish populations might experience challenges in finding optimal spawning conditions. I raised this discussion in a recent column when spawning conditions this year were anything but ideal. These alterations could impact the survival rates of eggs and fry, ultimately affecting the overall abundance of fish species.

tions have the potential to impact the availability of suitable habitats for various fish species, including critical areas for feeding, refuge, and spawning. Maintaining healthy riparian zones and implementing sustainable water management practices will become paramount in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

It is hoped that with

The Singing Maine Guide

by Randy Spencer,
Grand Lake Stream, ME



to understand the impacts on different species, and implementing regulations that promote sustainability and conservation. Moreover, efforts to protect and restore critical habitats, establish fish passages, and engage in habitat rehabilitation will be essential for preserving the ecological balance and the long-term viability of freshwater fisheries.

One of the most obvious effects of global warming on freshwater fisheries, not just Downeast, but all over Maine is the rise in water temperatures. Warmer waters can cause a multitude of changes, altering the delicate balance of species and affecting their growth, reproduction, and survival.

bass thriving in lakes and ponds that not that long ago would've been too cold.

Maine, renowned for its picturesque lakes, rivers, and vibrant freshwater fisheries, stands at a critical juncture as the impact of global warming becomes increasingly evident. As the Earth's climate continues to change, Maine's aquatic ecosystems face a range of challenges that will significantly affect the state's freshwater fisheries. In this column, I want to look at the likely changes that await these fisheries and the adaptations that may be necessary for their survival.

One of the most obvious effects of global warming on freshwater fisheries, not just Downeast, but all over Maine is the rise in water temperatures. Warmer waters can cause a multitude of changes, altering the delicate bal-

ance of species and affecting their growth, reproduction, and survival. As water temperatures lean lower, it only follows that we can expect significant shifts in the distribution of fish species across Maine's freshwater ecosystems. For instance, warmer waters can create favorable conditions for invasive species like bluegill, leading to their proliferation and potential displacement of native species. We have already begun to see this species more and more Downeast. Traditional angling hotspots may lose their charm as species diversity evolves, demanding that fisheries management adapt to these new realities.

As water temperatures lean lower, it only follows that we can expect significant shifts in the distribution of fish species across Maine's freshwater ecosystems. For instance, warmer waters can create favorable conditions for invasive species like bluegill, leading to their proliferation and potential displacement of native species. We have already begun to see this species more and more Downeast. Traditional angling hotspots may lose their charm as species diversity evolves, demanding that fisheries management adapt to these new realities.

The delicate reproductive cycles of freshwater fish may be disrupted due to changing environmental conditions. Temperature and seasonal cues play cru-

Global warming can also influence the physical characteristics of aquatic habitats. Increasing water temperatures and altered precipitation patterns can cause changes in water flow, stream levels, and lake dynamics. Few years demonstrate this effect like this year. These modifica-

the challenges posed by global warming, Maine's fisheries management will adapt accordingly. Proactive measures can include monitoring and assessing the changing fish populations, something our Region C biologists are already good at, collaborating with scientists

As global warming continues to reshape our planet, Maine's freshwater fisheries face an uncertain future. The impacts of rising water temperatures, shifting species distributions, altered reproductive patterns, and modified habitats necessitate a (Change cont. pg 65)

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LD 814

(Cont. from pg 58)

sure of coyote hunting. When informed by Department personnel that this was not in the cards, they proposed protecting coyotes during the pup-rearing period (April through summer). After considerable discussion, the DIFW moderator took it to a vote: 3 of the 4 biologists voted in the affirmative (I was the lone dissenter). The logic of the other 3 biologists was that we should treat coyotes like we do any other game animal, with a defined season which protects pup-rearing. It should be noted that none of these biologists has ever been responsible for managing a huntable deer population, as I was for 3 decades. Ultimately, cooler heads prevailed, as the steering committee rejected the proposed season closure.

So why does LD 814 seem so similar to what DIFW entertained in its coyote planning exercise? One of the anti-hunting

proponents on DIFW's coyote technical committee was none other than Geri Vistein of Project Coyote. The other was Claire Perry – she was behind the attempt to outlaw dog hunting of coyotes during the 130th Legislative session.

When LD 814 surfaced in February 2023, SAM went all out to oppose and defeat it. I was tasked with providing a science-based analysis of the likely effects of LD 814. The results were not positive for Maine. Eliminating coyote hunting from April 1 to September 30 would unleash a series of cascading negative biological and social effects. Coyote survival would increase, leading to an increase in this predator statewide. This in turn would result in increased predation on deer during summer and winter. This then would lead to a decrease in deer survival, unless DIFW backed off on antlerless deer hunting. In the north, DIFW would be unable to adjust doe harvests sufficiently to pre-

vent further deer declines. Hence, DIFW's fledgling effort to achieve deer recovery in the north by acquiring and managing deer wintering habitat would be jeopardized by an increase in coyote predation. Socially, elevated coyote populations would lead to increased negative interactions involving losses of livestock and companion animals. These negative interactions with people would be most intense in central and southern Maine. Overall, passage of LD 814 would clearly be bad policy for Maine.

This analysis was presented to SAM members as a feature article in the March/April 2023 SAM News. Subsequently, it was expanded and published as a booklet by SAM-ILA in late March. Currently, it can be accessed on SAM's website. Word of LD 814 got around quickly among Maine hunters. SAM connected with its network of Fish and Game Clubs, and on-line deer hunter groups, as well as individual hunters. V. Paul Reynolds published a piece on this impending bill in his weekly news columns, and The

Northwoods Sporting Journal. Reynolds also featured LD 814 during his Maine Outdoors radio program on WVOM. Mr Reynolds also took the time to personally contact the lead sponsor and two co-sponsors of LD 814 to politely argue the sportsman's case. His efforts had a positive impact.

On April 3, the Legislative Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife held a public hearing in Augusta on LD 814. The hearing was very well attended, particularly by sportsmen. Many who wanted to testify had to occupy an overflow room, as participants exceeded space limits within the hearing room. Several others, mainly supporters of LD 814, testified by ZOOM. Those in favor of curtailing the coyote season testified using emotional arguments suggesting the coyote is unfairly persecuted or being prevented from expressing its complex social behavior or that it is cruel to disrupt pup rearing. Those testifying against LD 814 focused on potential negative impacts that would result from an increasing coyote population.

At SAM, we were pleased to see that DIFW testified in opposition to LD 814. Prior to the hearing we were concerned that the Department might take a neutral position. I presented SAM's testimony, and I provided a copy of SAM-ILA's position booklet to each committee member. I was also asked to elaborate on details of SAM's testimony opposing LD 814, as was Nate Webb, DIFW's Wildlife Division Director.

During the hearing, it became obvious that two members of the legislative committee were clearly in support of LD 814. One individual, Rep. Cheryl Golek (D) of Harpswell expressed some doubt about the veracity of my report, asking me if I can back up my statements with scientific data. I assented, and she asked me to provide this documentation at the work session for LD 814. Another committee member, Rep. Sally Cluchey (D) of Bowdoinham, also revealed her apparent support for LD 814 by the tone and content of her questions of various individuals on both sides of the issue.

(LD 814 cont. pg 63)



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News

(Cont. from pg 57)

Conservation Officer William (Brad) Jones named the 2022 Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year

Conservation Officer Jones was hired as a New Hampshire Conservation Officer in September of 2017. After successfully completing his trainee year, Officer Jones was assigned to District 5's 54-patrol area. At the beginning of his career, Officer Jones demonstrated that he could manage high call volumes and was responsible not only for his patrol area but also for coverage in four other vacant patrol areas in District 5 during the first few years of his career.

CO Jones exceeded expectations as a field officer and has taken on many additional responsibilities. He is a certified Firearms Instructor and the armorer for the Law Enforcement Division. He is a Defensive Tactics Instructor, a Pepper Spray Instructor, and he instructs others in the use and deployment of a baton. Conservation Officer Jones became one of Field Training Officers assisting with the training of new officers in the field. He is a member of our Advanced Search and Rescue Team and has become a valued member of the NHFG Dive Team.

"Brad's enthusiasm and his constant effort to maintain a high-quality approach to every challenge is refreshing to both his direct supervisors as well as his fellow officers," said Fish and Game Law Enforcement Chief Kevin Jordan. "He is an officer who exhibits good common sense, dedication to

duty, and loyalty to a fault. Officer Jones cares about the people he works with and the people he serves. No matter how difficult or challenging a project is, Brad will take on that challenge, always exceeding our expectations."

The Shikar-Safari Club International was founded in 1952 by a group of international hunters who shared experiences and ideas about hunting. The group soon recognized its potential to accomplish meaningful goals in the field of conservation, and in 1973, the Shikar-Safari International Club Foundation was formed. Funds raised by members carry out conservation projects throughout the world.

Conservation Officer Kenneth St. Pierre and his K-9 partner Winni honored with the Vermont Police Canine Association Evidence Detection Team Award for 2022

Conservation Officer Ken St. Pierre has been patrolling District 2 since he joined the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in 2016. In September of 2021, Wes and Belinda Reed, who own Rise and Shine Retrievers, graciously donated Winni to the Department, creating a new K-9 Team.

Conservation Officer St. Pierre introduced Winni to the daily activities of a New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Officer, and the pair then

excelled in a rigorous and extensive training program. As a result of hard work, this remarkable team was selected out of a group of over fifty other Vermont and New Hampshire K-9 Teams who were all eligible to receive this prestigious award.

"In August of 2022, a number of K-9 Teams, including Fish and Game's other four units, were called in to work on a triple murder case," said Fish and Game Law Enforcement Chief Kevin Jordan. "Eight days after the incident, Officer St. Pierre and Winni were again called by State Police to search along Interstate 93, now more than a week after the homicides had occurred. After more than 3 miles of searching, Winni located a handgun and magazine in the median of the highway. This evidence was later confirmed to be the murder weapon, and based on the discovery of this critical evidence, an arrest was made."

Conservation Officer James Benvenuti and his K-9 partner Cora honored with the prestigious Vermont Police Canine Association Team of the Year Award for 2022

Conservation Officer Benvenuti and Cora are certified in Tracking, Evidence Detection, Search and Rescue, and Fish and Wildlife Detection. In 2022, they completed 209 hours of intense in-service

training while also being deployed into the field over 40 times to investigate a variety of scenes ranging from wildlife crimes to homicides.

"State agencies that have their own K-9 Teams often call on New Hampshire Fish and Game K-9s to assist them with evidence detection and tracking challenges during major criminal investigations," said Fish and Game Law Enforcement Chief Kevin Jordan. "Make no mistake, this New Hampshire Fish and Game K-9 Unit is the best trained and is one of the most highly skilled teams in New Hampshire. Each year, an increasing number of agencies are coming to recognize this fact."

Conservation Officer Benvenuti recently assumed leadership of the NHFG K-9 Team. Under his guidance, the team has grown to five fully certified CO-K-9 partnerships.

Conservation Officer Robert McDermott named the first recipient of the 2022 Law Enforcement Division Command Staff Award of Excellence

This honor was given to Conservation Officer Robert McDermott to acknowledge his efforts to go

above and beyond the call of duty through the dedication of his personal time.

In the fall of 2021, Officer McDermott asked if the Law Enforcement Division would consider purchasing an unmanned aircraft system, or as most would know it, a drone. There was skepticism at first because the equipment can be very expensive and it can be damaged very easily when in use. Officer McDermott was encouraged to apply for a grant from the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire to cover the cost of the equipment. His initiative led to the approval of the request, and the drone arrived in March of 2022.

Aware of the technology's potential, CO McDermott began his own self-guided training, learning everything he could from policies and procedures to flight logs. With training and commitment, Officer McDermott's new skills would later contribute to the location of a missing individual and closure for his family.

Officer McDermott's

(News cont. pg 66)



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SAM News

by David Trahan,
"Executive Director"

Over the last two years, the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA) has led a successful and sophisticated effort to conserve critical forested wildlife habitat essential for deer and nearly 50 other wildlife species across northern, eastern, and western Maine. Much of this is riparian habitat which is also important to cold water fisheries like brook trout and landlocked salmon. Three of the seven policies we believed necessary to accomplish this goal have been passed by the Legislature; the remaining four are nearing the finish line.

Three years ago, the SAM-ILA led an effort to replenish the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program with \$40 million from the General Fund, \$10 million per year for four years. Working with Governor Mills and Senator Timberlake, as well as our outdoor partners, this effort passed. In addition, we introduced legislation to prioritize deer winter-

ing areas for purchases made under this popular program. We introduced legislation, LD 404, An Act to Preserve Deer Habitat that statutorily protected deer yards and defined in law they would be managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) as Wildlife Management Areas with

This SAM-ILA bill is meant to discourage the development of power lines, solar and wind on critical wildlife habitat like deer yards and encourage it on compromised lands. LD 1881 has passed both chambers with a 2/3rds majority and is awaiting final passage.

deer as the highest priority. Finally, working with our consulting deer biologist, Gerry Lavigne, we restructured DIFW's antlerless deer permit system and directed the new \$12 fee for the permit to be used entirely for the purchase and management of deer wintering areas by DIFW. The \$1.2 million from this fee generates a 3-1 match from the federal government. That means an additional \$4.8 million a year will be available to buy and manage deer yards.

Un-fazed by our successes and with the knowledge we were not done, we steamed ahead in 2023 with four new SAM-ILA initiatives to complete our goals. The following 2023 SAM-ILA legislation has either passed this session and is already law or is poised to become law.

LD 1285, An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program, was sponsored

funding through the Mills administration would ensure that our momentum to buy deer yards is not lost or slowed due to a lack of funding. LD 1825 passed the Legislature and is on the Appropriations Committee table awaiting funding. We are concerned the Legislature is currently awash in requests from legislators to spend all existing funding for their own pet projects and this important

LMF Fund to the new trust fund, (\$37 million.) LD 1969 amends provisions of law affecting the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund and the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund. LD 1969 establishes the Conservation and Recreation Fund to achieve the purposes of the former Land for Maine's Future Fund.

We recognized that land transactions can take years and the money appropriated to buy land can sit in a fund unused for several years. We proposed this trust fund to generate interest (estimated at 5% a year) which will be available to reinvest in access and management of public lands. LD 1969 establishes the Conservation Land Management Fund to make capital improvements to and enhance wildlife habitat protection on permanently conserved state, municipal and private conservation lands. This bill passed the Legislature and is now law.

LD 1881, An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-Impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws, was sponsored by Rep. Landry. This bill requires developers of solar energy projects to pay a compensation fee or to pay for conservation efforts to mitigate

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(Report cont. pg 65)

LD 814

(Cont. from pg 60)

Rep. Cluchey also inquired about coyote contests, raising the possibility that this may become the next legislative target of those who oppose coyote hunting.

The work session for LD 814 took place on April 12, and it proved to be every bit as contentious as DIFW's coyote technical committee meetings.

The work session began with a proposal to vote "Ought Not to Pass", thereby killing LD 814. During discussion of this proposal, Reps. Golek and Cluchey introduced an amendment. They would vote to kill the season shortening provision of LD 814 but amend LD 814 to: 1. require that all coyotes be tagged by DIFW, and 2. remove the coyote exemption from the Waste of Game Law established in 2007. This strategy would do more to reduce coyote hunting effort than the proposed season shortening. These proposed amendments to LD 814 reveal the real strategy among Maine's anti-hunting activists, i.e., to incrementally end all hunting of coyotes. Here's why.

Enumerating the har-

vest by tagging is expensive and time-consuming for both the hunter and for DIFW. Tagging is normally done only for game species which are vulnerable to over-harvest, a situation that would never occur for coyotes. Hunters who currently may dispose of coyotes in the woods would now be required to bring them out to be tagged all year. There is no biological justification for this. The Maine Legislature exempted the coyote from the Waste of Game (also called the Wanton Waste) Law for two reasons. First, it is a recognition that our year-long hunting season enables hunters to help control coyote populations. This is a control effort, not merely a sporting season on coyotes. Second, the Legislature recognizes that coyotes are of economic value only when their pelts are prime (late November to early February). Hence, there is no rational reason why they must be brought out and used, as is the requirement for deer, moose, bear and other game. Passage of these two amendments would lead to far less coyote hunting while criminalizing hundreds if not thousands of otherwise lawful hunters.

The Committee

Chairs invited the Department to testify regarding these proposed amendments. DIFW's Nate Webb opposed both proposals. Regarding the tagging requirement, Rep. Golek repeatedly defied Webb's response, refusing to accept the Dept's position. The discussion ended when one of the Chairmen informed Rep. Golek that she was verging on an ethics violation by badgering an invited witness.

The Chairs also invited SAM Executive Director David Trahan and me to react to these amendments. Our testimony reflected and amplified upon that provided by Mr. Webb. It was at this point that Rep. Cluchey took the offensive, focusing on the removal of the wanton waste exemption for coyotes. Refusing to accept our testimony, Rep. Cluchey also badgered us and then took it a step further. She accused David and me of lying about coyote biology and making up data. (This accusation was strangely familiar, since I was accused of this by Claire Perry during one particularly heated discussion during the coyote technical committee meetings.) Was Rep. Cluchey coached?

After Rep. Cluchey's

outburst, the Chairman abruptly ended the discussion and called for a vote. The Ought Not to Pass vote to kill LD 814 without amendments was 11 yea to 2 nay, with Reps. Cluchey and Golek voting in the negative. On May 16, the Committee reported LD 814 out to the Maine Legislature as a divided report 11 to 2 Ought Not to Pass.

The Maine house debated LD 814, and on June 6, voted 98 to 34 to kill LD 814. A vote of 67 nays would have been required for Reps. Cluchey and Golek's amendments to be considered. It is interesting to note that LD 814's lead sponsor (Rep. Williams) and two co-sponsors voted to kill LD 814. With that vote, LD 814 was pronounced dead in both houses of the Maine Legislature.

I believe the demographics of those who voted nay on LD 814 are interesting and informative. All 34 who voted nay were democrats, all represented urban/suburban districts in south coastal

Maine, including Bangor and Orono. Females outnumbered males by a margin of 2:1, even though women and men are nearly equally represented among House democrats.

DIFW has learned through its recent public outreach regarding furbearers that urban/suburban non-hunting residents possess little knowledge of furbearers in general, or of furbearer management overall. There is a need to provide this demographic (and those who represent them in the Legislature) with objective scientific information on the ecology and management of furbearers, especially coyotes. In the absence of this educational effort, their only source of information will remain the biased and unrealistic portrait of coyotes and hunters painted by anti-hunting zealots. Until this situation changes, we should expect more proposed legislation like LD 814.



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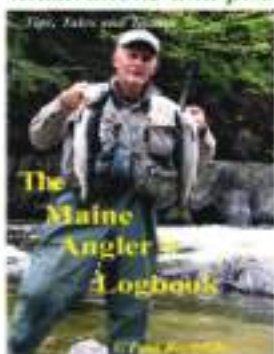


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Hitting Those Grouse

By V. Paul Reynolds

A grouse - by any other name, pa'tridge, bid-die, or thunder chicken - is no easy target. In fact, this game bird's ability to escape and evade the best of wing shooters is legendary. Outdoor writer Jim Harrison writes about the grouse hunt: "Surely it is a dream world: the nearly thundering flush and the always difficult shot."

My late friend, Millinocket guide Wiggie Robinson, loved to ask the question: "What is the difference between a grouse and a pa'tridge?" He would look at you with an impish grin, wait for the dramatic pause and then answer



his own question. "If shot in the air it's a grouse; if shot on the ground it's a pa'tridge." Implicit in all of this good-natured repartee, of course, is the knowledge that all is not wing shoot-

ing over bird dogs when it comes to gunning grouse.

To each his own. There are upland bird hunters and there are simply meat hunters. Both approaches are legal, but one

is irrefutably more sporting and challenging than the other.

Despite years of experience in grouse covers with my own gun dogs and those of others, a good wing shooter I have never been. Shooting grouse on the wing has a lot in common with golf: knowing

only going 12 times faster than the bird. Couple all of this with the fact that it takes the average shooter about a half a second to pull the trigger from the moment the eye sees the target. This does not count the time elapsed between the flush and the bringing up of the gun.

Shooting grouse on the wing has a lot in common with golf: knowing the correct techniques and converting them to action are two different things.

the correct techniques and converting them to action are two different things.

If you are new at upland bird hunting, or if you are a veteran like me who just never quite got the hang of it, you need to know that the lead is the thing. The late sporting artist and grouse gunner William Harden Foster wrote: "You can't hit cross-flying grouse if you don't lead the bird."

Foster backs up his assertion with some salient points:

1. A grouse shotgun load leaves your shotgun's barrel at about 900 feet per second

2. The average grouse is going down range at about 70 feet per second.

So the bird shot is

Wing shooting expert Brad Varney, in his new book "Maine-ly Wing Shooting," has an interesting take on this topic. "Shooting instinctively you should not consciously think. You must look only at the target. The more proficient you become, the less thinking you'll do, and the less thinking the more proficient you will be." As I read this, it's the golfer's parallel again. Don't over think it. Rely on muscle memory and just hit the ball - or shoot the bird!

And the fluid, sustained lead on a bird, as with a good golf swing, has follow through.

Foster also insists that "Successful grouse shooting is far more dependent (Grouse cont. pg 69)



Finally, the fishing book that you've been waiting for...drum roll, please...
FLY FISHING MAINE RIVERS, BROOKS AND STREAMS - By Bob Leeman

Sporting Journal columnist Bob Leeman, a Master Maine Guide and ardent fly fisherman, has written a book whose chapters capture the experiences of a lifetime of fishing Maine. This book not only tells where to go to catch brook trout and landlocked salmon in rivers, brooks and streams, but locates wadeable waters and canoeable waters. Certain pools, secretive springs, slow water, beaver ponds and fast water pocket holding places are located in words and detailed map illustrations. For the fly fisherman, this is a useful, practical, "how-to" angling manual, unmatched for its thoroughness, originality and authoritative advice. Bob shares his own fly creations along with recipes and striking color photos of each fly.

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Report

(Cont. from pg 62)

adverse effects on prime agricultural soils or soils of statewide importance. The new policy and compensation fee under LD 1881 is designed to fund off-site habitat improvements or preservation projects that mitigate the adverse effects of a development on wildlife and fisheries habitats.

LD 1881 directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish one or more compensation funds to carry out the projects or to authorize a public, quasi-public or municipal organization or a private, nonprofit organization to administer the funds.

LD 1881 also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt rules and to define “prime agricultural soils” and “soils of

statewide importance” and the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules and define “wildlife and fisheries habitats” subject to compensation fees or other conservation efforts.

This SAM-ILA bill is meant to discourage the development of power lines, solar and wind on critical wildlife habitat like deer yards and encourage it on compromised lands. LD 1881 has passed both chambers with a 2/3rds majority and is awaiting final passage.

LD 1826, is An Act to Designate Deer Wintering Areas Under the Jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, sponsored by President Troy Jackson. This bill allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to designate, pursuant to a habitat management agreement with the Department

of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, deer wintering areas on parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the bureau that are high-quality deer wintering habitat with a documented history of significant use by deer.

The bureau is required to manage the designated area with deer conservation as the highest management priority and may also manage the designated area to benefit other wildlife species that rely on mature softwood forests. Qualifying areas are eligible for funding from the DIFW’s Deer Management Fund.

LD 1826 also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to survey public lands in the northern, eastern, and western regions of the State for un-mapped deer wintering areas for inclusion as designated deer

wintering areas by the bureau. This SAM-ILA bill is meant to protect the 35,800 acres of deer wintering areas currently owned by the Bureau of Public Land and to identify any other deer yards they may own which are not yet protected. LD 1826 is now law.

Change

(Cont. from pg 59)

comprehensive approach to safeguard the state’s valuable aquatic ecosystems. Through adaptive fisheries management, scientific research, and responsible conservation practices, we can work towards mitigating the effects of global warming and ensure the resilience and sustainability of Maine’s freshwater fisheries for generations to come.

Not that it’s a viable option, but staying the present course as if noth-

ing significant is happening will only make the work of adaptation harder if it is begun later. The signs of a changing habitat are loud and large, especially for those of us who work in it every day. Again, it is not a story of comfortably gradual changes, but rather, abrupt and extreme weather changes like those we are seeing all over the country this summer. The fire season out west, which was once 5 months long, is now 11 months. To think Maine will be immune from dramatic climate changes, now that they are really cranking up, is naive. Our freshwater fisheries are too valuable to ignore impending threats.



Randy Spencer is a working guide and author. All of his award-winning books are available on Amazon. Reach Randy at randy31@earthlink.net or via www.randyspencer.com



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And we still salute our military men and women, who have served and continue to serve their country, here at home and in faraway lands. To them we owe our gratitude and appreciation for what they do, and for safeguarding our American way of life, which we value deeply.

As a way of saying thank you, we make the digital versions of the Northwoods Sporting Journal past and current - available online to service people around the world. If you have a loved one or friend now serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, or anywhere else, please let them know that they have free access to our digital magazines at: www.sportingjournal.com

News

(Cont. from pg 61)

tenacity and dedication to duty is commendable. He sets an outstanding example for other young officers to follow. The command staff is very proud of what he has already accomplished using this new equipment and excited to see more success in the future.

No Hunting Coyotes with Dogs in Vermont

This act creates a moratorium on hunting coyotes with dogs, effective July 1, 2022, with some exceptions.

What Has Not Changed Regarding Hunting Coyotes?

There is no closed hunting season on coyote.

Coyotes may be hunted at any time under natural light. Artificial lights and sighting

devices that project a beam of any kind of light are prohibited when shooting at a coyote.

What Has Changed Regarding Hunting Coyotes?

Coyotes may not be pursued with the aid of dogs, nor trained to pursue coyotes, until the Fish and Wildlife Board passes a rule that regulates the hunting method. A draft regulation is being developed.

An exception to the current moratorium: Hunters may pursue and take coyotes with the aid of dogs if they are on their own property and acting in defense of a person or

property, or if they have signed permission from a landowner who has a legitimate defense of persons or property concern.

Timeline was May and June 2023 -

The department will accept public comment on new proposed regulations on hunting coyotes with dogs advanced by the board on April 5, 2023. As drafted, the proposal will:

Create a 100-permit limit on the number of hunters licensed to hunt coyotes with the aid of dogs in Vermont, to track the scope of this practice.

Establish a season

from December 15 through March 31, and a training season from June 1 through September 15, to define the time of year when this practice may happen.

Require

that hunters register their coyote hunting dogs, and limit the number of registered dogs each hunter may use to four or fewer, to ensure a standard of fair chase.

Require that all dogs wear GPS and a control-collar units at all times during a hunt, to allow hunters to track and call off their dogs to minimize the risk of dogs trespassing on posted land.

Require that all coyotes killed during hunts with dogs be reported to the department.

Require that coyotes hunted with dogs must be killed with a gun, muzzle loader, bow, or crossbow.



Northwoods Sporting Journal's Alicia Cram poses proudly with this lunker lake trout taken from Cold Stream Pond



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A Family Affair

By Bob Banfelder

For those who are unfamiliar with knife designer Ken Onion, you are in for a rare treat and what I often refer to as “Lessons in Learning.” That phrase had, I would imagine, a very special meaning

vative SpeedSafe assisted-opening knife, a folding pocketknife that one could easily deploy with one-hand operation. Initially, there was quite a bit of controversy as to whether the assisted-style knife (aka gravity knife) was

flipping a switch, thereby separating the knife into three sections; no loose screws or washers with which to contend. Disassembly and/or reassembly takes only seconds.

With those stellar accomplishments firmly acknowledged, it is no surprise that Ken Onion is recognized as a gifted, talented knife maker. A true innovator. A craftsman of considerable force, ex-

ness is serious. Let’s look at these specifications, featuring a baker’s dozen that goes into what makes this knife what it is: Awesome! It is my new **Every Day Carry** knife.

Overall Open Length: 7.94 inches

Closed Length: 4.60 inches

Blade Length: 3.32 inches with Drop-Point Blade

Blade Thickness:

der high pressure and heat to create a dense, durable finish. The highly textured handles on the Jake knife are a welcome departure from the often smooth to glassy-smooth finish found on many folding knives. This is a serious knife that feels and is quite solid in your grip. It is not going anywhere. Too, the almost 1-inch section of jimping atop the back of the blade lends added support to the

Under Stan’s tutelage, Ken remained in Hawaii after his discharge from the Marine Corps (Marine Air Station in Kaneohe Bay (Oahu Island), Hawaii. Ken Onion did not disappoint his mentor.

ploring and opening a new frontier in the business of blade design. Ken is truly a legend in his own time and was honored as the youngest inductee into BLADE Magazine’s Cutlery Hall of Fame, the highest honor bestowed to individuals who demonstrate exceptional contributions to the world of knives.

And now to review Ken Onion’s newest **CRKT** (Columbia River Knife & Tool) folding knife for 2023. The Jake. The Jake is, of course, an assisted-opening **Every Day Carry** (EDC) folding pocketknife. However, this bad boy is on steroids; deployment is a *snap*! The blade’s sharp-

0.14 inches

Blade Steel: 12c27 Sandvic. Its chemical composition is comprised of carbon, chromium, manganese, silicon, phosphorus, and sulfur. This translates to toughness, hardness, wear resistance, and corrosion resistance, resulting in good blade retention.

Blade Finish: Bead Blast, Brush. The result is a soft satin surface.

Blade Edge: Plain

Weight: 3.80 ounces

Handles: Lightweight Aluminum with G10 Inlay. G10 inlay is a composite material made from layers of fiberglass cloth that are impregnated with epoxy resin, then compressed un-

grip.

Style: Folding Knife with Lock Liner

IKBS Ball-Bearings for smooth blade deployment. (Ikoma **Korth Bearing System** ~ named after Flavio Ikoma, Brazilian knife designer/knife maker and co-inventor of the ball-bearing pivot system.

Flipper: Fast-Opening

Pocket Clip: Low-Profile

All in all, the Jake knife exceeded my expectations. It is a definite winner. The cost of Ken Onion’s Jake folding knife is \$113 MSRP, available on CRKT’s website, www.crvt.com. (Family cont. pg 68)



for Ken. For Ken Onion wanted to learn from the master: “Please teach me,” Ken had asked renowned local Hawaiian knife maker Stan Fujisaka. Stan became Ken Onion’s mentor. There came a point in their relationship when Stan turned to Ken and said that if Ken did not become a better knife maker than himself, that he, Stan, had failed as a teacher. That comment underscored what the master craftsman expected of his promising pupil, and that was for Ken to surpass the mastery of his skilled tutor. Under Stan’s tutelage, Ken remained in Hawaii after his discharge from the Marine Corps (Marine Air Station in Kaneohe Bay (Oahu Island), Hawaii. Ken Onion did not disappoint his mentor.

In 1998, Ken Onion went on to design the inno-

considered a switchblade. A blade-assisted opening knife is not a switchblade and is therefore legal to carry. As of May 30, 2019, the New York State ban on gravity knives was repealed and is legal in all 50 states, including New York City, so long as the blade is no more than 4 inches.

Following his outstanding achievement of SpeedSafe assisted-opening knives, Ken spent a decade designing a folding knife that is completely disassembled without the use of any tools whatsoever! Hence, the Homefront was born and made its debut at the Atlanta, Georgia *Blade Show* in June of 2016. Employing Field-Strip Technology, the Homefront can be quickly dismantled for cleaning and maintenance by simply turning a thumb wheel and

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Family

(Cont. from pg 67)
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Need I point out that this

knife is a real bargain?
Incidentally, the Jake is
named after one of Ken's
longtime fans.

To come full circle,

after Ken's military service, I mentioned that he remained in Hawaii, mentored by Stan Fujisaka, noted custom knife maker. Well, there is another reason why Ken remained in Hawaii. He met and married a *Chinese-Hawaiian* hula dancer, Noel. After

thirty-two years of marriage, Ken still refers to Noel as his "little hula dancer." In 1989, through a friend, a very supportive Noel had made the arrangement for Ken to meet Stan Fujisaka . . . and the rest is history.

Noel and Ken have

a son, Kenny Jr., who is following in his father's footsteps. As a matter of fact, Kenny has debuted his first production knife for 2023, named— are you ready? — the Bamboozled. Ken Onion, Jr. designed a "refined *folder* that blurs the lines between classic and modern design." Somewhere in that quoted description, it more than subtly suggests an enigma. My take on this questionable choice of name is that folks will not easily forget it, lest one is certainly inclined to be *bamboozled* by sheer wonderment. In any event, this talented family (husband, wife, and son) is certain to go down in history as a dynasty.

Note: Ken's mentor, Stan Fujisaka, passed away in 2014. He was certainly considered a part of the Onion's extended family. Rest in peace, Stan.

In conclusion, stay focused on Ken Sr.'s Jake EDC folding knife for 2023. It is the *Jake* of all trades, master of many.

CRKT will be showcasing their knives at the following *Blade Shows*:

June 2-4, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia

October 13-14, 2023 in Salt Lake City, Utah

February 23-24, 2024 in Fort Worth, Texas

Robert Banfelder is an award-winning crime-thriller novelist and outdoors writer. He has penned eleven (11) novels and six (6) handbooks, among them fishing fresh and salt water, bowhunting, and gunning. He also has over 300 hundred articles featured in national, regional, and local magazines. Visit his website at www.robertbanfelder.com

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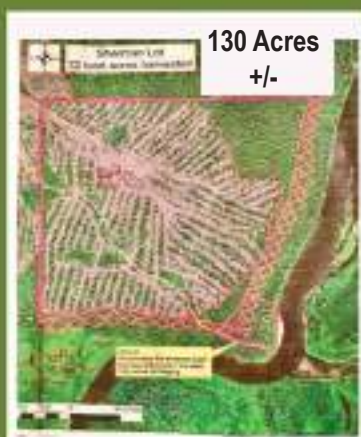
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Grouse

(Cont. from pg 64)

on woodcraft than shooting skill." What he means is that the high-kill grouse gunners know the bird's habits and habitat. Once the gun dog is locked up on point the best, more experienced grouse gunners know where to step amid the briars and brambles and how to maneuver for the best shooting position when the thunder flush comes.

Now go practice on some clay targets. October is just around the corner. The grouse outlook is good.



The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide, co-host of a weekly radio program "Maine Outdoors" heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network.. His e-mail address is vpaulr@tds.net His latest book is "The Maine Angler's Logbook."

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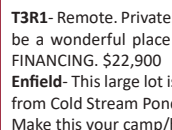


Winn- This cute cabin is insulated with a knotty interior. The lot is heavily wooded and gorgeous. Situated on **North Rd**; a paved, year round, secondary road. With a little fire pit sitting just off the cabin's screen porch. \$49,900



Prentiss TWP- This piece of land is on a year round road with power, has a drilled well and a septic system (we think). Most of the site work

is done and is priced fairly right on **Park St.** Rural, near many lakes and other outdoor recreational possibilities. \$24,900



T3R1- Remote. Private. Wooded and beautiful. With deeded access to Bill Green Pond, this would be a wonderful place to build your seasonal cabin right off **Engstrom Rd.** POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCING. \$22,900

Enfield- This large lot is part of a larger parcel, owner would consider selling larger piece. Not far from Cold Stream Pond & Cold Stream. Public road of **Caribou Rd** & short distance to electricity. Make this your camp/home. \$34,000

Lee- Looking for some privacy but still need year round access and electricity? This lot is well wooded, fairly level and ready for you to take a peek at on **Old Steamboat Road.** It could be the property you have been looking for. \$37,500

Lincoln- Nice lot on year round **Half Township Road.** Great lot for that year round home or cottage. This lot is located in a rural area close to ATV trails. Explore the Maine woods from this lot. Enjoy a look today. \$29,500



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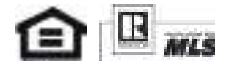
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8459-Madison; Nice location for this 4.88 acre, in town, parcel with some privacy on a less traveled road. 1,000' on Jones brook and 750' of road frontage. Very convenient to town. \$44,900



4404-Madison; 3BR, 1 bath New Englander on a large in-town lot with a huge back yard. Attached garage with storage above. 0.4 acre, public water/sewer. \$139,900



3454-New Portland; WOW! Huge trees, small brook and nice 2BR, 2 bath mobile home with glassed-in porch and shed that would make a nice camp or small home. Snowmobile trails accessible from site. 25 acres. \$110,000



6088 - West Forks; Quaint 2BR camp in a beautiful area. Year-round maintained road for ease of access in winter months. Close to trails and a hunter's paradise. 1.04 surveyed acres. \$125,000



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CALAIS: This 3 bedroom 1 and 1/2 bath sits on a side road and is close to the downtown area of Calais and is on a side street. There is a room downstairs that could be used as bedroom. Home has a garage but hasn't been used for some time. There is a nice lawn for little ones to play on. Also even close to McDonalds. Great price of only \$135,000.00.



CALAIS: This big home is at 1369 River Road. It needs work as there is mold and lead paint in the house and there is a lot of stuff that needs to be cleaned up outside but could be made into a nice home again. Home sits on 8 acres with a small view across the street of the water. There is a garage also with the property. Super great price at only \$85,000.00

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45 Spruce Lane, Warren: 3000 sq. ft. of living space, 5 bdrms, 3.5 baths. Garden shed and flower gardens. Ample storage with full foundation. Main home has a new heating system and other updates. Large driveway. Between the house and apt there's a 2 car garage, a lg back deck. Heated basement with its own garage door. Converted carpenter's workshop space into 400 sq. ft. 2 BR, 1.5 bath apt. Private entry, stainless appliances, walk in pantry, and laundry. A second septic system has been added as well as new plumbing, heat, electric, insulation and more. \$575,000.



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