



**RANGELEY REGION GUIDES' &
SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION**
P.O. BOX 244
RANGELEY, MAINE 04970

**OUR MISSION IS THE CONSERVATION,
PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF
WILDLIFE FOR SPORTSMEN,
SPORTSWOMEN, AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS.**

Rangeley Region Guides' & Sportsmen's Association

P.O. Box 244
Rangeley, Maine 04970
www.rangeleyoutdoors.com



Winter 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi All,

Today I sighted in my rifle for deer season at our rifle range thinking about just a few years ago I was in the same spot leaning over the hood of my truck shooting at a make shift target hoping no one would come by and kick me out because I didn't have permission to be there. Now today a shooting bench with a canopy to help with the weather and shooting stands to make it so easy plus permission to be there. As they say, we'd come a long way baby!!!!

Our club sure strives to promote the great outdoors from reclaiming our fishing pond to be as good as it was before so that our young fishers can get introduced into this great sport to other programs like hunter safety classes, junior guides, outdoor heritage sporting days and the many other programs and events that our club sponsors. This year Sheri Oldham, a director and new vice president of our club, did an above and beyond job with the Maine moose lottery, which the state awarded to Rangeley to sponsor. Our state has stated that the Rangeley Guides and Sportsman's Club has raised the bar on how to put on this event. Marcia Baker, in the third and final year of the deer forage program, has had such great success that our state and other states are now following her program and asking for assistance to help guide their programs. I could go on and talk about Stephanie Palmer on Junior Guides or Elaine Holcombe on the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day or the many more members and many more programs and events that we hold but I would run out of space. As you can see, we really do represent what the outdoors is all about and continue to help bring new sports, young and old, to enjoy the outdoors. None of this would be possible without all the great volunteers who year after year step up and pitch in to make all of our programs and events possible. So my president's message for this year is THANK YOU for all the time and work that you all put in. GREAT JOB MEMBERS.

Rusty Harvey

MOOSE LOTTERY FESTIVAL

by Sheri Oldham

RRG&SA was proud to host the 2012 DIFW Moose Lottery Drawing on June22-24. For the first time in the history of the Moose Lottery, a three day festival was held around the centerpiece of the permit drawing. With over forty vendors and twenty events and contests, the estimated 2,500 to 3,000 attendees had many choices for fun and entertainment. The first ever World Invitational Moose Calling Contest was a crowd favorite. Kevin Deschaine of Madawaska was crowned the champion and pocketed the \$1000 grand prize. RRG&SA received many compliments and thanks for hosting this event. The new format of a three day festival will continue next year in Greenville, ME, the site of the 2013 Moose Lottery. RRG&SA is indebted to Larry Koob and his crew at Oquossoc Marine for providing an ideal venue to host such a large event.



If you were unable to attend this great event, you will want to check out Animal Planet's "North Woods Law" cable TV show starting in January, 2013. Animal Planet's production crew was present at the lottery and did a lot of filming which will be shown next season.

FISHING POND

by Sam Spaulding

The Rangeley Guides' Fishing Pond has been in existence since 1998. The idea of having a fishing pond for children to learn the basics of angling was discussed for a couple of years and finally came to fruition in the summer of 1998. M&H Construction built the pond and it quickly filled with water.

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES
PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

_____ JUNIOR GUIDES _____ HABITAT RESTORATION _____ FUND RAISING
_____ ARCHERY COURSE _____ SOCIAL EVENTS _____ GRANT APPLICATIONS
_____ KEEPING FISH LOG _____ OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE

NAME(S) _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Starting in 1999, fishing was excellent and we soon found that fish were able to winter over in the pond. As expected, no natural reproduction has taken place. During the first 5 or so years, many large fish were caught and some were reported over 3 pounds. It is believed that regular daily feeding by John Thomas contributed to the successful fishing.



As time has passed, the fishing success has gone down, not for the lack of stocking which has been done by the Guide's through Pierce Associates and also by Maine IF&W in cooperation with our Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day, but because of the accumulation of natural silt and erosion into the pond.

In response to this situation, the Directors decided, with the advice and guidance of biologists, to have the pond cleaned and deepened, with the expectation of returning the quality of fishing to that which was experienced when the pond was originally constructed. This was done during October of 2012. M&H Construction again was our contractor and they successfully siphoned and pumped the water out of the pond and scraped the accumulated silt and weeds from the pond bottom. Rocks were left on the bottom and several stumps were added for structure. Where possible, the depth was increased and we now have nearly 20 feet of water at the pond's deepest point. M&H reported that between 600 and 800 cubic yards of material was removed, with most being deposited along our lower parking lot, increasing its capacity.



In the spring we will once again start a stocking program of Brook Trout and hope that the recent work done will return our pond to its previous success. We were originally told by pond experts, that the life of a pond such as ours was approximately 15 years. We have found that to be true and now hope that the next 15 years will be as fruitful.

JUNIOR GUIDES 2012 SUMMER PROGRAM

by Elaine Holcombe

In its 15th year, the Junior Guides experiential-environmental outdoor education program continues to be sponsored by the Club. Many member-volunteers provide expertise in several conservation and environmental aspects of outdoor recreation for boys and girls between the ages of 9 to 11. The RRG&SA basic and advanced programs begin the first Monday in July and continue every Monday to the first Monday in August meeting from 9:00-3:00.



The basic program with its unique safari kit emphasis in identifying the Maine animals with accompanying hands-on activities continues to peak the imagination and curiosity of its participants. Canoe safety and insect identification is a big part of the program. Each year changes are made to the content curriculum to keep it fresh and challenging. In early Fall, the Board of Directors voted to have our "kids pond" reconstructed in the hope that by doing this, it will result in a resurgence of the number of trout caught by the youngsters in a wonderfully safe place to enjoy the sport of fishing. The pond is now refilling and in the spring we hope to reseed the area around the pond.

The advanced program emphasizes challenging outdoor activities that include GPS and map skills work. A highlight of the summer was canoeing on Cupsuptic Lake and seeing fledgling eaglets on Birch Island. Culmination of the program ended with a camp out at Black Brook Cove, compliments of the LaRochelle's.

We are very fortunate to have the continued talents of many volunteers in the areas of fly tying, first aid, fly casting, trapping, laser shot, map and compass as well as specific input from state park ranger, Bruce Farnham from Mount Blue State Park. Our thanks to Harold and Joyce Fay for directing the advanced shooting activities at the RRG&SA range. The following junior counselors are so helpful in supporting details of the program: Jordan Shockley, Kelly Rogers, Brianna Welton, Jocey Lysik and in the advanced group, John and Jake Lysik.

With new groups as well as the old timers returning, Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day was a great day for families. Many youngsters from the RLHT Eco-Venture program attended to acquire additional outdoor knowledge. The efforts of the RRG&SA volunteers resulted in a fun and educational day for all.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We need your continued support in order to continue to make progress toward achieving our mission to conserve, protect and restore wildlife and fisheries populations in Northwestern Maine for the enjoyment of sportsmen, sportswomen, and future generations. Our membership year is from January 1 through December 31. Each year some of our members unintentionally fail to renew their membership. You can avoid having your membership lapse by completing your renewal application that will be mailed to you in January. Dues have remained the same; \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$10 for seniors. Of course, many people renew at higher levels and that adds to our ability to provide even more programs and activities for the community. If you are in a position to do so, please consider upgrading your membership, but PLEASE renew as soon as you receive your application. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact Kathy Brittain (rrgsa@myfairpoint.net). You can also download a membership application from our web site: www.rangeleyoutdoors.org

2013 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these 2013 events

- o Regular membership potluck supper & meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except in Nov. and Dec. when we meet on the 2nd Thursday). No meeting in April. Potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by Club meeting and guest speaker, at the Clubhouse.
- o July 1: Junior Guides, 6 consecutive Mondays 9 – 3.
- o July 11: Strawberry Festival/yard sale
- o July 18: Annual Cookout 5:30
- o July 29, 30, & August 5,6: Hunter Safety Course
- o August 13: Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day
- o September TBD: Turkey Shoot/Open Shooting Day
- o October 19: Youth Hunt Breakfast

WEB SITE

Stay up-to-date on the Club activities by frequently visiting our web site: www.rangeleyoutdoors.org

ENDOWMENT FUND

"100 years from now it won't matter how much money you made or how big your house was what will matter is that you helped preserve our outdoor sporting heritage for future generations"

An endowment is available to you as a way of becoming part of RRG&SA's long-term future and leave a legacy for future generations. The fund continues to grow as a result of

lifetime memberships, annual contributions and member donations. Contact Don Palmer for information.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We would like to sincerely thank the following Club Members who have served over the past years on the Board of Director's. Their resignations were accepted and we look forward to their continued support of the Club: Dave Borman, Lyn Hewey, Dick Moore, Shelby Rousseau and Heather & Randy Targett,

We would also like to welcome our new Director's: Don Curtiss, Brett Damm and Sheri Oldham.

PRESIDENT: Rusty Harvey

VICE PRESIDENTS: Sheri Oldham, Kevin Sinnett

SECRETARY: Elaine Holcombe

TREASURER: Doug Rose

DIRECTORS: Marcia Baker, Bill Brittain, Don Curtiss, Brett Damm, Mac Dudley, Harold Fay, Kirby Holcombe, Don Miller,

Don Palmer, Shelby Rousseau, Gerry White

Newsletter Editor – Kevin Sinnett





We are looking forward to another exciting year for the Guides in 2013! To pre-register or more information, please call or e-mail our Co-ordinator, Stephanie Palmer, at 864-5647 or donsteffi@gmail.com

“DFP” DEEMED SUCCESSFUL AS IT CLOSES

by Marcia Baker

Spear-headed by board member, Marcia Baker, The Deer Forage Project (DFP), a community partnership, as planned, has come to a close. The three-year project was created to address the sharp decline of the area deer herd. RRG&SA worked with IF&W, and partnered with two logging companies and area businesses to grow highly-productive food plots designed specifically for Rangeley’s inhospitable soil and harsh climate.

High protein food plots are known to fatten up deer, better preparing them to overcome winter starvation. Efforts were made to grow plots near deer yards, and on south-facing slopes. Since its inception, over 35 plots were completed in the surrounding Rangeley area in empty log landings provided by Wagner and Seven Islands, large land owners (LLO).

The Project was conceived and coordinated by RRG&SA board member, Marcia Baker. Sam Spaulding, RRG&SA board member helped initiate the program, as he was also a forester for Wagner. This project was the first in North America to experiment with wood ash as a sweetener and natural fertilizer of deer food plots. Clean wood ash substituted for lime which would have been far too costly. A specially-designed seed mix was created by IF&W biologist, Bob Cordes for Rangeley’s inhospitable, acidic soil. The LLO’s agreed to replace it with their standard “conservation mix” used for erosion control.

Besides purchasing the new seed mix, Seven Islands and Wagner selected and excavated appropriate log-landings to be converted to food plots. This project could not have been possible without the use of their prepared log-landings. Marcia Baker would like to thank Stratton’s ReEnergy Biomass Energy that donated and transported the clean wood ash to a central Rangeley depot. Thanks also goes to M&H Construction, who devoted many hours of free labor and equipment to hauling ash, excavating landings and providing a central ash distribution center. Local

businessmen, such as Mark Beauregard, trucked the ash to the log landings. Michael Koob and Frank Cerminara used their heavy equipment to spread it on the bare soil. Club members contributed manual labor, and club members, like Ron Ray and Rick Baker, used their ATV’s to seed the plots.



As a member, please acknowledge these generous businesses by patronizing them: M&H Construction, Cerminara Excavation, Koob’s Garage, and Beauregard Forestry & Earthwork.

Acknowledgment also goes to the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation Service, IF&W, U. of Maine Extension Service, and Maine Forest Service for their assistance.

A special thanks goes to Senator Tom Saviello, who introduced legislation so that wood ash could be stream-lined as a natural soil neutralizer for use in agriculture and food plots.

The results have been gratifying. Trail Cameras, and monitoring of browsing signs indicate that deer and other wildlife are using the plots. Besides deer, other wildlife such as moose, bear, turkey, grouse, and song birds are thriving on the landings. These plots produce ten times the forage grown without wood ash or lime preparation. This increased tonnage compounds the chances for wildlife sustainability. A low ph. seed mix is now being experimentally seeded on Seven Islands plots, and they have indicated a willingness to use the two new seed mixes in the future. As RRG&SA steps down, Wagner will continue using ash to remedy the soil intended in the original project. Two deer plot workshops have been conducted with small land owners, and Baker now consults state-wide to other land owners hoping to grow private deer plots. Another educational workshop is being planned for Farmington in November. There is an educational blog <http://deerandwildlifeforageproject.blogspot.com/> to further elaborate on the project. The Rangeley Seed Mix is available for sale at Aroostook Milling, Houlton; Eastern Sales, Freeport 688-4991, Northeastern Seeds, Detroit; and River’s Edge Sports in Oquossoc 864-5582.

Rangeley’s community partnership serves as a model that is already being emulated by other state areas threatened with the deer shortage.

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE

By Harold Fay

The leaves are gone, the air is crisp and another season ends for the RRG&SA Rifle and Pistol Range. 2012 was another good year for members who use the range at Fanjoy Pit on the Morton Cutoff Road.

This was the first season using the new target stands and removable frames. The system worked great and resulted in a much cleaner range which, in turn, led to a much more enjoyable shooting experience for our members. Thanks to Gerry White and Ken Lemke for the time spent constructing the target frames and bases.

We held a Special Turkey Shoot for Moose Lottery attendees on June 23. The event went over extremely well with shooters in three divisions winning fantastic prizes provided by Cabela’s in Scarborough. In the Novice Division winners were Curtis Fortier, Blake Webster and Elijah Fay; in the Women’s Division - Jeanne Bartolomeo, Barbara Burgess and Jean Nutile and in the Men’s Division - Alan Dyer, Doug Clive and Dave Kretzing. Congratulations to all!

On July 30, the older participants in our Junior Guides Program, under the leadership of Nini Christensen, were at the range for firearms safety training and some target practice. The kids loved the experience which is now an annual event for the program.

Those attending the annual Hunter Safety Course in August were afforded the opportunity to get some hands on training at the range. Including this session in the course provided them with essential safety and firearms handling skills in a safe environment. Thanks go out to Dick Moore for presenting the course along with assistance from Ken Lemke and Bill Brittain. It was a pleasure working with the three of you.

The range was once again open to the public to shoot on September 29 followed by the 4th Annual RRG&SA Turkey Shoot on a cold and rainy September 30th. A number of shooters attended despite the weather. All managed to stay dry for the event thanks to the covered shooting benches. Novice Division winners were Gaige Savage, Meg Targett and Jocelyn Lysik. The Adult Division winners were Tom Reed, Paul George and Elijah Fay. Congratulations to all the winners, who went home with a Gift Certificate for a Ham or Turkey. Thanks to Bill Brittain, Tom Reed and Ken Lemke for their help.

In closing we wish everyone a warm and safe winter and look forward to seeing you in the spring.

OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE DAY A GREAT COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

By Elaine Holcombe

Showers fell all around the Oquossoc Club House but not a drop came down on the RRG&SA Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day on August 14th.

There was no need for rubber bottom boots but the L.L.Bean Bootmobile would have offered theirs.....that is if you could

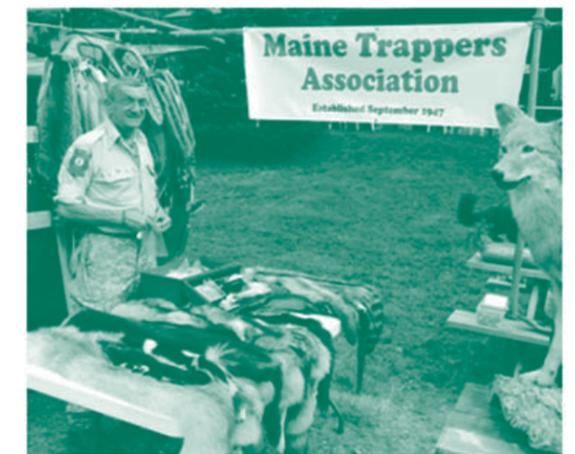
fit into it. In celebrating its 100th anniversary, L.L.Bean was part of Heritage Day to offer a free photo shot in front of the bootmobile or toss a boot and win a prize.

Mr. Moose was spotted in Oquossoc welcoming people to the celebration and later, to the delight of all, Smokey the Bear made a special stop to visit young folks and reinforce his saying, “only you can prevent forest fires”.

One hundred trout were released into the kids fishing pond by IF&W with the help of excited youngsters. The fishing then began with each youngster hoping to be lucky enough to hook one of the 8 to 12 inch trout and win a special David Footer print. Last year, Lucy Gonzales from Madrid, Spain caught the only trout that day. She was the recipient of a David Footer original painting of her trout which was presented this year.



Award winning fly tier Sam Kenny was at his best teaching young folks to tie flies and offering his special flies for sale. Scott Olsen of Bryant Pond Conservation School led the archery for the day. Many folks lined up for the instructional target shoot. Up on the mountain the trap shooters got a work out as well as youngsters and adults as they were introduced to the sport of shooting clays.



The Maine Primitive Survival School taught small groups about the medicinal plants that grew on the property as well as teaching outdoor awareness.