

Winter 2015 - 2016

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### President's Report:

WOW, what a year for RRG&SA! Not only were our annual events very successful, but major renovations to the rifle/pistol range, archery range, and shotgun range were completed. If you did not have a chance to visit the ranges this summer, please make it a priority to do so in 2016. I guarantee you will be impressed with the significant upgrades to these facilities. 70% of the cost of these projects was financed with grant funds from US Fish and Wildlife/Maine DIFW and the Maine Community Foundation.

I want to express a huge THANK YOU to the many club member volunteers who responded to our email requests for work crews on these range projects. I also want to give special recognition to some club members who worked "above and beyond". Rifle/Pistol range: Harold Fay, Gerry White Ken Lemke, and Fred Dubay. Archery range: Mac and Steve Dudley. Shotgun range: David Kretzing, Jack Tourtillotte, Lyn Hewey, Scott Hatfield, Bill Closs, and Lauren Lind.

Your board of directors is already hard at work planning new and exciting activities for 2016. RRG&SA news and updates can be found on our webpage [www.rangeleyoutdoors.com](http://www.rangeleyoutdoors.com) and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA](http://www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA).

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and good health in 2016.

Sheri Oldham



### TIM BAKER NATURE TRAIL IS A REALITY

by Elaine Holcombe

The Rangeley Guides and Sportsmen's Association sponsored a 10 member team of young adults called the AMERICORPS (NCCC) whose purpose is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct team-based national and community service. Amanda Gardner DOI/VISTA site director organized a schedule of work to make appropriate changes and complete the trail on the grounds of the RRG&SA clubhouse. Tim Baker was a valued member of the RRG&SA board of directors. He was the ultimate volunteer as his help was appreciated by many town organizations. Elaine Holcombe began the first cutting of this trail 4 years ago and now it is finished.

The trail is a low impact, natural looking pathway that minimizes disturbances to the surrounding vegetation and wildlife while providing aesthetic appeal. Furthermore its purpose is to offer a discovery trail to actively involve families and children, especially in learning about the flora and fauna of the area. The trail is circuitous as it moves through a variety of forest zones featuring unique species of plants. The hike begins at the wooden bridge. There are wood and tree bridges to navigate as the hiker travels from low to higher elevation. There is a meadow observable from the path where one might see deer and other animals. The trail ends at the far end of the Clubhouse property by the fishing pond but the walk continues as one can observe the perimeter plants as well as watch the trout rise on the pond.



A dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony will be organized June of 2016. The trail offers not only an educational but also peaceful woodland experience. An interpretive pamphlet with a map is being planned for the future.

## **CLUB COMPLETES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ARCHERY FACILITIES**

By Steve Dudley

Using funding from the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Range Access Improvement Program (MRAIP) Grant, Mac Dudley, our Archery Director and President Sheri Oldham planned and directed the completion of many improvements to the existing archery facilities this summer and early fall. Many of our wonderful volunteers pitched in to haul timbers, 3-D targets and gravel into the walking range. Mac and husband Steve, then refurbished the trail with 11 bog bridges, re-did shooting lanes for safety, added three new lanes and set up the 3-D targets. M&H Construction generously donated labor, equipment and fill to re-do our three sight-in lanes. These are now handicapped accessible, nicely landscaped and very functional for all users including bow hunters, recreational shooters and a terrific setting for teaching archery skills. The results are impressive and we may now have one of the best archery facilities in Maine.



Mac drilling bridging decking



Steve with new 3D targets

Stepping back a bit, we began developing the archery program back in 1998 when Don Palmer, Mac and Rick Rogers from IF&W located and marked the Club's property lines and flagged an initial set of trails and shooting lanes. Over the next two years, Mac and our always willing volunteers cut the trail and lanes. We began to purchase and set up 3-D targets thereafter. In 2002, Mac was elected to the board, and she offered our first Bow Hunter Safety course. In 2003, we supported Mac with equipment purchases so she could offer our first Olympic Style Archery Program. This popular program, for adults and kids from 9 years of age and up has been a popular offering here at the Club for the past 12 years.

2003 also was the year that we cut the trees and created the lower parking area and we created the archery sight-in lanes. Again, we received terrific support from M&H Construction and our super volunteers to get this expansion done. We now offered a complete facility for the bow hunter and recreational shooter as well as plenty of extra parking which was very needed during our dinner meetings, summer programs and Sporting Heritage Day.

Soon after, the family of Joe Novak donated the funds to purchase the archery storage shed located in the lower lot at the entrance to the walking range.

Our archery facilities have seen steady use over many years. Time, torrents and falling trees took their toll so the MRAIP Grant was timely for doing maintenance, expanding our 3-D target counts and for offering opportunities to people with disabilities. The work done and the equipment we purchased will carry us forward for many years. Thanks to Mac, M&H and our many volunteers for their generous support and hard work.



Mac with our prize Elk

If you have a chance, take a look these facilities. You should be impressed. Also, if the walking range is not in use by archers, take your kids or grandkids for a walk around the walking course. The 3-D targets are very realistic and in the natural setting they are placed in, they will amaze kids and adults too.

## **RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE**

by Harold Fay

Another great summer shooting season has come and gone for the Rifle & Pistol Range. 2015 saw the debut of our newly renovated facility. New earthen berms were constructed making the range safer for all. Drainage was improved by grading and installing a culvert to divert runoff from the shooting positions. Many thanks to M&H Construction for all the earth work. New target bases were installed and secured to the ground with earthen mini berms which help protect them from damage. Larger shelter canopies were installed on both the rifle and pistol ranges. A wheelchair accessible shooting bench was built and installed on the rifle range by Fred Dubay with assistance of Keith Sawicki. We have purchased and installed a handicapped accessible Porta-Potty for everyone's convenience. Thanks go out to Brackett

Pumping Service for cleaning and maintenance of the unit. For anyone who has not seen or used the range facility this year, you owe it to yourself to take a drive and check it out. It is free for club members to use at any time if you have range waiver paperwork on file. (Available at the River's Edge Sport Shop.)

The facility is open to the public from 9AM until 1PM on the second Wednesday and last Saturday of the month from June until mid-October. On those days there are trained Range Safety Officers on duty to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our guests. There is a nominal fee of \$5 per non-member shooter on those days as well as having target backers available for rent and paper targets for sale. Most of the public participants became new members of the RRG&SA after their attendance at the range.

The weather gods rewarded us a beautiful day for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Shoot which was held on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and a good time was had by everyone who participated. In all we had 6 adult and 3 youth winners who brought home gift certificates for a turkey or a ham. The winners in the Adult Division were Bill Brey, Don Curtiss, Fletch DellaValle, Keith DellaValle, Dave Kretzing and Tom Reed. Youth Division winners were Will Brey, Luke Quimby and Nathan Quimby. Thanks go out to Tom Reed, Bill Brittain, Sheri Oldham, Dave Kretzing, Doug Erale, Marianne Erale and Joyce Fay for their valuable assistance in making this a fun and successful event.



2015 Turkey Shoot Youth Division winners  
(L to R) Luke Quimby, Will Brey and Nathan Quimby.

As winter closes in on us, we anxiously await the 2016 season at the range. Plans are in the works to introduce more fun shooting events over the course of the summer and look forward to seeing everyone there.

## **RANGELEY SKEET and TRAP ASSOCIATION**

by Dave Kretzing

Skeet shooting returned to Rangeley this summer with the completion of our new handicapped accessible trap and skeet field. 267 people participated in various clay shooting sports this summer, a significant increase from last year. We now offer trap, wobble trap, skeet, and sporting clays. New for 2016 will be a July 4<sup>th</sup> shotgun tournament and expanded hours for instructional shotgun shooting.



New Trap Field

Please remember that your RRG&SA membership allows you to shoot clays at member rates. The range is open to the public as well. Hope to see you at the range in 2016.

## **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

by Joyce Fay

The weather was the best it's ever been for the Annual Strawberry Festival in July. There were many returning artists and crafters plus many new vendors this year. As always, Renee Sopel did a great job of coordinating the craft section of the show along with her invaluable helper, Carol Corl. Of course there was Strawberry Shortcake served by our great Strawberry Team lead by Carol Harvey. A variety of treasures were available at the yard sale thanks to many donations and the hard work of Rose Collins. Our grill masters outdid themselves this year with the addition of Guide Fries to the menu. The hand cut fries were a big hit and will stay on the menu for 2016.

This festival is one of our major events and is not possible without the support of all who attended and our wonderful members who volunteer their time. The festival is always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July, so mark your calendar for July 14, 2016. For more info call 864-5196.

## **JUNIOR GUIDES PROGRAM**

by Elaine Holcombe



The Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association completed another successful Junior Guides Program. Both basic and advanced junior guides were involved in ambitious and challenging outdoor learning activities exploring the special environment of the Rangeley Region. The photos show our basic Junior Guides engaged in a variety of activities. Both groups participated in the aqua zip line at the Bryant Pond 4H camp.



Our 2016 program will start on Monday, July 11th and run for six consecutive Monday's. Each year our programs are changed to maintain a refreshing curriculum presentation.

Registration is required, so please mark your calendars to contact Joyce Fay at 864-5196 early next spring.

## **OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE DAY**

By Elaine Holcombe

In spite of the rain, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day went off with few hitches. The IF&W stocked the kid's fishing pond with 100 eight to nine inch trout. Two trout were caught: one was eight and a half inches caught by a little boy named Annik and the second was eight inches long caught by Jackson Medoff of Rowlett, Texas!



Smokey Bear made an appearance with his good friend Ranger Lillis. The Bryant Pond 4H Camp was present instructing youngsters in the art of archery target shooting. Master bee keeper and scientist/biologist Matt Scott entertained and informed attendees about the honey bee, which is the Maine state insect.

Children tried their skill at laser shot, a shotgun simulation. Many youngsters took advantage of the face painting booth coming away looking like a favorite animal or having a tattoo of an insect or flower put on their face.

The Maine Spaniel Field Trial Club weren't bothered by the rain. The demos of their skills took place on the pond. The Mountain Man steadfastly handed out his beans and cowboy coffee.

The Critter Cave was a respite from the rain and produced some mighty fine artwork. Pond Safari resulted in the capture of some interesting insect critters so necessary to the habitat.

The highlight of the festival was the pie eating contest. Winners were Will Dugan and Kasey Burgess. Their prize?? You guessed it....a blueberry pie!!

RRG&SA would like to thank everyone who braved the weather to enjoy this wonderful old fashioned festival. We especially thank the vendors, nonprofits of the area, presenters and volunteers.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

By Kathy Brittain, Membership Chair

We did it again, another amazing year for memberships. Thank you for your 2015 membership. Our long-time members came through for us yet again and we appreciate their support, while at the same time we welcomed many new members and hope that they will remain members in the future. We value each of our members and their commitment and efforts to help us to conserve, protect, and restore the fisheries and wildlife populations of the Rangeley region. On a personal note, I think the friendships that develop out at the ranges, fishing pond, monthly meetings, and special projects is one of the

primary benefits of becoming and remaining a member of RRG&SA. I truly hope you will renew your membership for 2016.

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. In early January you will receive a renewal application in the mail. Each year some of our members inadvertently fail to renew their membership. You can avoid having your membership lapse by renewing your membership as soon as you receive it. All membership dues will remain the same as last year, \$25 for individuals, \$30 for family memberships and \$10 for individual senior memberships. If you are able to renew at a higher level, such as contributing/business for \$50, sustaining for \$100, or sponsoring for \$500, it will help us to improve and provide programs and activities for our membership and the community. We are also fortunate to be able to offer memberships at River's Edge in Oquossoc. The membership application forms can be downloaded from our web site: [www.rangeleyoutdoors.com](http://www.rangeleyoutdoors.com)

We hope to see you next year at one of our monthly meetings or events. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact me at [rrgsa@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rrgsa@myfairpoint.net).

### **Businesses Supporting RRG&SA**

The RRG&SA is very grateful for the significant donations from the following local businesses and companies:

M&H Logging, LLC	Rangeley Region Builders Supply
Blue Flame Gas	River's Edge Sport Shop
Cerminara Enterprises	Cabela's
LL Cote	Touch the Wild Photography
Alpine Shop	Rangeley Region Lake Cruises
Country Club Inn	Rangeley Region Sport Shop
Ecopelagicon	Farmer's Daughter
LL Bean	Mingo Springs Golf Course
Koob's Garage	Morton & Furbish Real Estate
Parkside and Maine	Morton & Furbish Rentals
Saddleback Maine	Rangeley Saddleback Inn
Oquossoc Marina	Rangeley Feeds & Seeds
Promatic, Inc.	

### **STAY CONNECTED ON LINE**

Stay up-to-date on the Club activities by frequently visiting our web site: [www.rangeleyoutdoors.com](http://www.rangeleyoutdoors.com) and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA](http://www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA).

### **2016 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Regular membership potluck supper & meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. No meeting in April. Potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by Club meeting and guest speaker, at the Clubhouse.

- May 21: Rifle & Pistol Range opens for season
- May 28: Shotgun Range opens for season
- June 1: Archery Range opens for season
- June 8: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- June 25: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- July 3: Town Park Event
- July 4: Shotgun Tournament - Shotgun Range
- July 11: Junior Guides, 6 consecutive Mondays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- July 13: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- July 14: Strawberry Festival
- July 21: Annual Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
- July 27, 28: Hunter Safety Course (see Aug. dates)
- July 30: Public Day & Hunter Safety – Rifle/Pistol Range
- August 3, 4: Hunter Safety Course (see July dates)
- August 9: Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day
- August 10 : Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- August 18: Annual Cookout/Silent Auction
- August 27 : Public Day - Rifle/Pistol Range
- August 29, 30: Tournament – Shotgun Range
- September 14: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- September 24: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- September 30: Shotgun & Archery Ranges Close
- October 2: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Shoot – Rifle/Pistol Range
- October 12: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range
- October 22: Youth Hunt Breakfast
- October 29: Public Day – Rifle/Pistol Range Closes
- December 15: Christmas Party

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

We would like to recognize the following Director's who retired this past year. We appreciate their leadership and service to our membership: Rusty Harvey (Past President), Marcia Baker, Tom Clough, Don Curtiss, Brett Damm, Doug Rose.

This year we welcome two new Directors – Dick Moore and Raymond Roy.

### **The RRG&SA Board of Directors**

PRESIDENT – Sheri Oldham

VICE PRESIDENT – Kevin Sinnett

SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe

TREASURER – Raymond Roy

**DIRECTORS:** Bill Brittain, Harold Fay, Joyce Fay,

Kirby Holcombe, David Kretzing, Nick Leadley, Dick Moore, Sam Spaulding, and Gerry White

Newsletter Editor – Kevin Sinnett