



**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



Greetings to RRG&SA members,

Winter 2011

Here we are again. The fishing rods and hunting gear are put away and we are awaiting even more snow to enjoy the outdoors. Time goes by so quickly that it won't be long before spring arrives.

Speaking of time moving on, there have been some significant changes at RRG&SA. Rusty Harvey has taken over as the new President of RRG&SA. Kevin Sinnett and Kirby Holcombe are Vice Presidents. Past President Don Palmer continues as a Director to insure a smooth transition in administration and direction of the club.

Kirby Holcombe described the change over in a recent article: *During Don's 16 year tenure, the RRG&SA has grown its membership from about 40 to today's total of 655 members; increased its Board of Directors to 20; remodeled the clubhouse by adding an addition, a covered deck and a pavilion; created a kids fish pond; developed an archery 3D course; established a shooting range and developed a web site. New programs were added such as Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day, an event showcasing Rangeley's traditional outdoor sports of hunting, fishing, and trapping for residents, visitors and youngsters alike; the Deer Forage Project, a cooperative effort with large landowners to restore deer populations; stream restoration projects with IF&W; The Save the Rapid initiative; Casting for Recovery with Fly Fishing in Maine; Live the Legend, a guided mentoring program for selected youngsters; Strawberry Festival, our largest fund raiser; and reestablished the Junior Guides program, a summer educational program for kids 9 – 12 years old. Don's wife Stephanie has been the director of the Junior Guides summer program for the last 14 years. He also established a yearly budget and accounting system including an endowment fund to put the club in a solid financial position. During his presidency Don also found time to serve a four-year term on the DIF&W Advisory Council and as President of the Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society he and Stephanie established the new Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum.*

The membership is confident that our new President, Rusty Harvey, who has been Vice President for the past ten years, will continue to lead the Club to excellence. From the age of ten,

Rusty's father instilled in him a love for the outdoors. He has hunted and fished all over the U.S., Canada, and Alaska. Before moving to Rangeley, Rusty owned a successful landscaping business in Massachusetts and enjoyed many trips over the years to his camp on Gull Pond. In 1994 he moved to Rangeley and started the Rivers Edge Sports Shop in Oquossoc. He sold the sport shop in 1992 to Jerry White and continued to actively guide sportsmen. His wife, Carol, is also a Master Maine Guide. She is the organizer of the Strawberry Festival, the RRG&SA's largest fundraiser. Rusty plans to use his skills as a successful independent businessman to keep the Club strong and vibrant. "It will be hard to fill the shoes of Don Palmer," said Rusty. "But with the dynamic group of Club Directors and an enthusiastic membership, along with the very supportive Rangeley merchants, the RRG&SA should stay on course."

THANKYOU!

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your president for the past 16 years. The revitalization of our club has far exceeded the dreams of that small band of dedicated sportsmen, who first met at the high school in the mid 1990's to discuss how we could improve the area's fishing. It has been the tremendous commitment and effort of hundreds of volunteers who are responsible for the club's success. Each person made their own unique contribution to creating a legacy that now will be carried on by others. Thank you for the opportunity to give back to our community, the fisheries and wildlife we love and respect.

Don Palmer

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

"There is a old saying that says if it ain't broke don't fix it. Well I'm here to tell you that our club ain't broke & doesn't need any fixing. In 2010 our membership has grown to over 650 members, our ongoing programs & events have had great success, and we have added new events and programs that also look to be great winners. All of these events and programs don't just happen, it takes someone to step up and oversee these happenings, and our membership makes these events & programs successful.

We are fortunate to have a very outstanding group in our board

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

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR GUIDES | <input type="checkbox"/> HABITAT RESTORATION | <input type="checkbox"/> FUND RAISING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHERY COURSE | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL EVENTS | <input type="checkbox"/> GRANT APPLICATIONS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KEEPING FISH LOG | <input type="checkbox"/> OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE | |

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

of directors and officers. Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with this great group and have first hand seen how very hard they always work for our club. It is because of this great membership & board of directors that my job as your new president is certain to be a fairly easy and enjoyable one. P. S. Remember our meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, bring a dish for our pot luck supper, and enjoy a friendly group with a bonus of a guest speaker informing us of some aspect of the great outdoors.

Rusty Harvey

TIME TO RENEW

We need your help 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. We accomplish this through educational activities, especially with youngsters, related to the outdoor sporting heritage of our region, hunting safety, and wildlife conservation, support activities to protect and restore wildlife and fisheries habitat, and support legislation and regulations consistent with RRG&SA's purpose. Each year some of our members unintentionally fail to renew their membership. You can avoid having your membership lapse by putting a renewal check in the mail right now. Dues for individuals are only \$20, families \$30 and seniors \$10.

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 now by sending your dues to RRG&SA, P. O. Box 244, Rangeley, ME 04970. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!**

HARRY CARY (excerpted from article by Kirby Holcombe)

Over its long history the Kennebago area has seen many well-known guides and sportsmen who today are legendary such as Ed Grant, Herb Welch, and Walter "Skeet" Davenport. Today, Harry Cary continues that tradition. He is known by many as the "Dean of Steep Bank Pool".

Harry Cary first fished Steep Bank Pool by accident. He had walked up to fish Kamankeag Pond from the Quimby Pond area. When it was time to return he found he had forgotten his compass. Harry knew however, that Kamankeag Brook flowing from the pond dropped down to the railroad bed. Arriving at the railroad bed he was near Steep Bank Pool so he stopped to fish for a while and he was hooked.

Originally from Rhode Island, Harry owned a sport shop for many years called Cary's Sport Center. There he studied fly tying under a master, Hal Gibbs.

One day while fishing Steep Bank in the early 70's, Harry met fabled New Hampshire search and rescue Warden Pete Lyon. Pete told Harry to put on a Grey Wolf and sink it. Harry did

and promptly caught a fish. He and Harry were friends ever since. Pete Lyon was the one who put a fish (Walter) on the hook for Henry Fonda in the movie "On Golden Pond. Harry was told that the movie directors had come very close to using Rangeley as the setting for the movie.

J. Edson Leonard, the author of several books on fly fishing including the bible on flies appropriately titled "Flies" published in 1950 was also a good friend and fishing partner. Around 1950 Harry was fishing Steep Bank Pool when he met Pete Smith, a well-known Kennebago fisherman. Pete told him to try a gray or grizzly soft hackle fly and fish it as an emerger. He had instant success with it and it became his favorite Steep Bank fly. He always carries a variety of them in his vest.

Harry Carey is a long time member of the RRG&SA. He is always ready to help on projects especially if it means helping youngsters. For many years he has taught fly tying and fly casting at the RRG&SA Junior Guides summer program.



Youngsters in the program, many from away, will long treasure the quality time they spent with this patient, knowledgeable gentleman.

JUNIOR GUIDES PROGRAM-VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

There is no question why the junior Guides program is a success, growing into its 14 th year- VOLUNTEERS!

RRG&SA members contribute their talent, time and expertise in support of our many and varied on-hands outdoor activities. Elaine Holcombe has developed the Safari Kit and insect identification activities allowing youngsters to learn in a fun and interactive way. Nini Christensen teaches the older youngsters the skills of hiking, camping, mapping and GPS technology. The mentored day of fishing on Kennebago Lake is often the highlight of the summer. Last years hosts were Nat Thompson and Ellie White who organized a memorable experience for all.

Doreen Sinnett, R.N. presented a program of basic first aid and instruction for the basic and advance groups and the adult volunteers. Fly tying instruction is another program highlight. Member volunteers Harry Cary, Rick Baker, Jim Quimby and Carl Dodge helped eager youngsters how to create their very own fly patterns. Dave Borman prepared a popular lunch to

this exciting effort to preserve Rangeley's rich outdoor history and traditions. RRG&SA has played a significant role in that history over the past 110 years, going back to the days of Fly Rod Crosby.



Please visit the museum this summer and see RRG&SA's display of how we are working to insure future generations will be able to enjoy the wonders of the outdoors.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Some times it is difficult to keep our membership lists current. If you are aware of any changes (addresses, email, marital status, etc.) that should be made to our data-base, please contact Thelma Thomas so we don't lose touch with you, our most important resource.

2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these 2011 events

- o Regular membership potluck supper meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except April at 5:30 at the clubhouse.
- o July 4, Junior Guides, 6 consecutive Mondays 9 – 3.
- o July 14, Strawberry Festival/yard sale
- o July 21, Steak/Salmon Cookout 5:30
- o July 25, 26, August 1, 2, Hunter Safety Course
- o August 3, 4, 5, Archery Class
- o August 8, Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day

IN MEMORIAM

Last year RRG&SA and the Rangeley Community lost two good friends and a long time Directors of RRG&SA.

Tim Baker Tim was one the very first Directors of the reinvigorated RRG&SA, From the beginning his quiet, earnest commitment and willingness to pitch in on the many projects helped build, not the just the club house but the club as well. Tim was always available when there was a need to get things done. As a major supporter of the Junior Guides Program, RRG&SA will oversee the building of a trail on our property using the donations received in Tim's memory. Our deepest sympathy and appreciation to Cathy for her generous support and help in this memorial to Tim.

Bob Allen Long time Director Bob Allen passed away in December while shoveling snow. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Jill and family.

Bob was a Director for more than 10 years and played a significant role in the formation and success of the club. He and Jill have been the major force behind one of our signature events, the "Steak and Salmon Cookout". Many of us remember their commitment and dedication to the event. (even during the year the rain drenched the fires and soaked everyone, but we prevailed and made the most of it).

Bob also was there to prepare breakfast for Youth Hunting Day and maintained the property winter and summer. Bob will be missed, but his contribution to RRG&SA will long be remembered.

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.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Rusty Harvey, VICE PRESIDENTS – Kirby Holcombe, Kevin Sinnett, SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe, TREASURER – Doug Rose

DIRECTORS: Marsha Baker, Dave Borman, Lyn Hewey, Mac Dudley, Harold Fay, Don Miller, Dick Moore, Don Palmer, Shelby Rousseau, Sam Spaulding, Heather & Randy Targett, John Thomas (Honorary), Gerry White

EDITOR – Don Palmer

ASSOCIATE EDITOR – Stephanie Palmer

CONTRIBUTING CORRESPONDENT – Kirby Holcombe

Don Palmer



compliment the fly and spin casting instruction provided by Warden Reggie Hammond, Blaine Holding, Carol Harvey, Jean Nutile, Pat Lefebvre and Harry Cary.



Britt Taylor is now a freshman at Mercyhurst College in Erie PA. We will miss her helpful assistance as a senior counselor over the past 4 years. Also helping as counselors were Jordan Schockley, Kelly Rogers and Elena-Jo Palmer, visiting from France.

Looking to the July 4th start of a new season we have a new project in the planning stages. Thanks to all those who make each Monday very special. For further information, registration, or to volunteer for the 15th year contact Stephanie Palmer 864-5647 or palmer@rangeley.org

WILDLIFE FORAGE PROGRAM

Due to the severe depletion of Western Maine's deer herd, RRG&SA started a Three-Year Program called the Wildlife Forage Project. The project was based on three factors causing the decline: habitat-loss, severe winters and predation. Marcia Baker, chairperson, established several volunteer-driven projects: The Logging Company Partnership; Apple-Tree Release Program, and Membership education.

Logging Company Partnership RRG & SA volunteers used empty sites offered by Seven Islands and Wagner logging companies to grow a specially designed "Rangeley Seed Mix" developed by the RRG & SA and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist Bob Cordess. The food plots helped to fatten up the deer to endure the long winters.

The project faced a unique challenge in that the normal grains and legumes needed for high protein forage would not grow in the acidic soil found in western Maine's timberland.

"Our timberland soil was never farmed, and is extremely acidic," Baker explains. "No matter how fertile the soil is, our seeds would not have germinated unless the soil was sweetened. One option is to prepare the soil with lime, which is extremely expensive. The challenge was to replace lime with free wood ash, the first N. American project to ever attempt this experiment. Another challenge was in matching the cost of the conservation seeds used by the logging

companies on their empty staging areas in the past with an economical blend for our soil conditions." The Logging Companies agreed to buy the seed-mix and used it instead. Wildlife use was monitored by RRG & SA volunteers who have collected evidence that deer and moose fed on the plots well into snowfall. In fact, the cross-town plots were grazed to resemble a closely-mowed lawn.

This partnership will continue establishing new plots on the property of the logging companies for the next two years.



Apple Tree Release Program: Thirty-four over-grown apple-trees were cleared of competing trees and released into the light. Using volunteers, these apple-trees will once more begin to produce apples to help deer and many other species of wild-life to thrive. Next year, other over-grown and suffocating trees will be located and released, using the 25 volunteers signed up for the Project.

Other Volunteer-Led Projects: A partnership is in planning with Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust to share a grouse and woodcock habitat project in South Bog next year.

Private Property Consultation: Dick Moore, Elaine Holcombe, and Dave Borman helped to consult with the membership for development of potential plots on their own property. Consultation was offered to people who bought the Rangeley Seed Mix to establish their own plots.

Education In addition to the Blog, <http://deerandwildlifeforageproject.blogspot.com/>, several guest speakers focused on wildlife management using timber techniques. This included Andy Weiss, Biologist from Ruffed Grouse Society and Chuck Hulsey, IF & W Biologist, who spoke on Deer Wintering Yards. Plans are underway to give more in depth weekend workshops next year for aiding deer through timber management and food-plots.

COYOTE CONTROL

RRG&SA is very concerned about the state of our deer herd and have instituted programs, as shown above, to help. We are also looking at ways to improve and expand our deer wintering areas. Gerry Levine has encouraged us to add an important next step, coyote control. With assistance from Rivers Edge Sport Shop in Oquossoc, two RRG&SA Directors, Randy and Heather Targett,

are developing a program for coyote control following Gerry's suggestions. The Rangeley - Oquossoc area is a major wintering area for deer.



Two "shooting shacks" for harvesting coyotes have been constructed and placed in strategic locations in the area. They will be manned by hunters during the day and night. Controlling the wary and elusive coyote is a difficult and time consuming enterprise. We have a lot to learn about effective coyote control through hunting. We are beginning to do our part to tip the balance in favor of the deer.

FORREST BONNEY RECOGNIZED

(excerpted from Kirby Holcombe article)

Forrest Bonney, Rangeley's long time fisheries biologist, retired in late 2009 after 39 years with MDIF&W. He is often called Mr. Brook Trout but more appropriately he is Mr. Wild Brook Trout. He worked tirelessly on research and stream restoration projects designed to preserve and sustain wild brook trout in Maine.



He found time during this work, however, to explain it all to the public. Forrest is the author of "Maine Brook Trout, Biology, Conservation, and Management", available through at the RRG&SA and the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum. This is the definitive work on Maine brook trout and a must for any serious brook trout fisherman.

At the June meeting of the RRG&SA, Forrest Bonney was honored for his outstanding service to the Rangeley area. RRG&SA President Don Palmer has worked with Forrest for years. Palmer states, "After several meetings with Forrest, I

realized that our goals were very similar, the protection and enhancement of the regions brook trout and salmon populations. This meant appropriate regulation, enforcement and habitat improvement. Each year when the RRG&SA established goals for the upcoming year, I would ask Forrest and our local wardens for their input. This led to a cooperative effort in areas like stream restoration. It was much more productive than having an adversary relationship, even when we didn't see the issue exactly the same way."

Forrest will be remembered by RRG&SA particularly for his use of our members as volunteers for his stream research, monitoring, and restoration projects. He is a master at using and retaining volunteer workers. There were always more people who volunteered to work for him than he could use. There are numerous people in Maine ready to volunteer their time to constructive projects, many retired and with a variety of skills. While non-profit organizations have made good use of this labor, utilization of volunteers by government has been sparse. Forrest Bonney's use of volunteers is a model of how it can and should be done.

MAINE GUIDE CHALLENGE RAFFLE

We are very excited to announce our new fundraising raffle for 2011. Local registered Maine guide, Jeff LaRoche, approached the RRG&SA about donating a bear hunt to the club for a raffle. It wasn't long before this impressive and kind gesture was matched by other local guides who were inspired and touched with Jeff's generosity. Rangeley has a long history of notable guides including the first ever Maine guide, Fly Rod Crosby. Today there are still many fine guides in the Rangeley area that can help you in any area of recreation. Raffles are one of the RRG&SA largest sources of fundraising. As a nonprofit organization we are able to take these funds and redirect them back into the community with programs such as Junior Guides, Live the Legend, Casting for Recovery and Conservation School scholarships to mention a few. We are currently finalizing our list of guided trips that will be included in this multiple winner raffle. There will be TWO bear hunts, a fly fishing trip on the Rapid River, TWO deep water fishing trips on Mooselook, a certificate towards a guided trip at Bosebuck Camps, and a guided snowmobile trip to mention a few. Tickets and final details for this Maine Guide Challenge Raffle will be available in March and you can get tickets from club directors or at Rivers Edge. **Thank you to all the wonderful guides who have donated trips!** Get your tickets and tell your friends.

OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE MUSEUM PARTNERSHIP

The new Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum opened in Oquossoc in mid August. RRG&SA is proud to be a partner in