



**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 2012

Well this year has ended and what a fulfilling year it has been. Our weather could not have been better for the Strawberry Festival, Salmon & Steak Cookout, and the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Days. All of these events were very well attended and successful.

Our wildlife feeding program (thanks to the hard work of Marcia Baker and her crew) is in its 3rd year and has really caught the attention of the Maine Fish & Game Department as well as other groups across New England because of the documented success the program has had.

The Junior Guides Program, Hunter Safety Program, Casting for Recovery and other RRGSA programs remain very well attended and very strong. Our shooting range is always active and is still bringing in many new members. The addition last year of covered bench tables on the pistol and rifle range has really helped. **Once again we have seen our membership grow to over 700.**

The State Fish & Wildlife has awarded Rangeley as the location for the 2012 Moose Lottery Drawing. Our Club has been selected to head up this very exciting event, Sheri Oldham and Gerry White, two of the club directors, are organizing all events involved.

The club has a great raffle going thanks to many of our area guides who have donated over \$6000.00 worth of guided trips. Including two, one week long bear hunting trips, many fishing trips, even a moose horn looking expedition, kayak trip, and a chance to win \$500.00 in cash or a over/under shot gun. The drawing will be held the weekend of the Moose lottery in June 2012.

We are saddened at the loss of John Thomas, who was one of the driving forces in making our club grow to what it has become in 2011. Also Ian Welton, a young member very involved with the Junior Guides.

In closing we all should be very proud to be members of such a strong sportsmen's club, which has achieved great success with all the hard work we have done and I hope that you can step up to pitch in when possible to keep this great club growing.

Rusty Harvey

RRGSA SELECTED AS RECEIPIENT OF 2011 IF&W SMALL LAND-USER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Commish Woodcock presents plaque and certificate to members of the RRG&SA at the annual banquet in Augusta.

MOOSE LOTTERY FESTIVAL, JUNE 22-24, 2012 By Sheri Oldham

RRG&SA is very proud to have been chosen as the lead organization to host the 2012 DIFW Moose Lottery Drawing.

This event has always been a great gathering of Maine's outdoor sporting community. The RRG&SA Board has decided to "kick it up a notch" and plan a three day festival around the centerpiece of the lottery drawing. We have partnered with the Rangeley Chamber of Commerce to offer 20 plus events to entertain families throughout the weekend.

A partial list of events include a tagged fishing derby, fly-casting contest, 3D archery shoot, trapshooting contest, marksmanship contest, canoe/kayak race, and multiple events just for kids. A unique event for the festival will be the World Invitational Moose Calling Contest. Qualifying contests will be held at all the major sporting shows next spring. The Rangeley qualifier will be held at Bald Mountain Camps on Saturday, June 2 @ 6pm. The semi-finals will kick-off the festival Friday night, and the final

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!

show will occur Saturday afternoon just prior to the lottery drawing. At 1PM on Sunday, great prizes will be awarded to all the contest winners. The 50/50 lucky winner and the Guide Challenge Raffle winners will be announced at that time as well.

Please mark your calendars and plan to bring the entire family to Rangeley for a special fun-filled weekend. Check the RRG&SA website for a complete listing of events. You will also want to pre-register for the contests as space will be limited, and participation will be on a "first come-first served" basis. Feel free to contact Sheri Oldham at sheridan.oldham@gmail.com or Gerry White at riversedgesports@gmail.com with any questions.

OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE DAY, 2011

By Elaine Holcombe

RRG&SA celebrated its 15th consecutive OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE DAY on Tuesday, August 9th at our Clubhouse on Old Skiway Road in Oquossoc. The celebration is modeled after an old fashioned frontier rendezvous featuring fishing, hunting and trapping with more than 25 sporting and conservation exhibitors, educational lectures, demonstrations, contests, activities for youngsters, archery and shotgun demonstrations. The weather was fantastic— sunny and warm.

Our feature was the Maine Primitive Skills School where festivals goers were involved with tracking, learning about wild edibles, bush craft and many other wilderness survival skills that lent themselves to hands-on participation.

Also featured was, Sam Kenney, a rising star among fly tiers. He has won several fly tying competitions and many of his flies were on display and available for purchase.

Another highlight of the day was the youth trout fishing contest. It is always a treat when IF&W deposit 50 eight-inch trout in the pond for the challenge of trying to catch that winning trout! Dave Footer offered an original painting of the winning fish. This year our winner was a youngster from Madrid, Spain. Her name is Lucia Gonzalez.

A surprise visit from Smokey the Bear always causes excitement for everyone. It was a great time for that special picture with our favorite forest protector.

There was a wonderful array of booths, on-going demonstrations, trap and skeet, laser shot, archery and many other interesting exhibitors including Bob & Andrea Howe from Pine Tree Lodge demonstrating snow shoe making. Pond safari and the critter cave had several groups of participants. When hunger pangs hit, there was the amazing wild game burgers cooked to perfection by Dave Borman.

Next year's Outdoor Sporting Heritage should be bigger and better than ever. Remember, it is always the second Tuesday in August. We hope to see you there.

DEER FORAGE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP COMPLETES 2ND SUCCESSFUL SEASON

By Marcia Baker

The Deer Forage Project (DFP), a unique 3-year community project, just completed several more forage plots that benefits deer and other wildlife. Completing its second season, the partnership headed by RRG&SA Chair, Marcia Baker, involves several local companies and community volunteers.

The aim of DFP is to ward off winter starvation of deer. There has been a severe decline of deer since the two disastrous winters of 2008 & 2009. The Club is using empty logging sites offered and prepared by Wagner Forest Products and Seven Islands LLO's. Developed in conjunction with Wildlife IF&W Biologist, Bob Cordess, a specially designed high-protein seed mix, dubbed Rangeley Mix, was developed to grow in Rangeley's inhospitable acidic soil and harsh climate. The high-protein forage produced is hoped to add an extra layer of fat, so deer will have better winter endurance. The Rangeley Seed Mix includes 3 clovers, turnips, oats and buckwheat, a combination of annuals and perennials.

The plots from the first season, proved to be flourishing into the second year, with the dense clover reaching two feet high in August. In the new plots this year, turnips were added to the seed mix, and proved to be promising.

Although deer plots are common in some other states, The DFP is unique in many ways. Besides tailoring a seed mix to its specific soil, it combines community resources, such as using Club volunteers to undertake a multi-step labor-intensive process. Secondly, it is the only North American food plot project that uses wood ash, instead of lime, to sweeten the extremely acidic soil enabling the seeds to germinate and to flourish. Lime is extremely expensive, and RRG&SA substitutes lime with clean wood ash donated by Boralex Energy in Stratton. The ash is delivered by trucking companies such as M& H. It takes tons of ash to sweeten the soil of each plot. In addition, the LLO's purchase Rangeley Mix, all of which has made the project affordable and successful.

Whether or not this project is actually sustaining deer through the winter is yet to be determined. However, the plots are being monitored for signs of use. So far, some plots have been browsed down to the ground resembling a mowed lawn. Besides deer, there are signs of moose, bear and turkey. For more detail please use the link to Marcia's blog: <http://deerandwildlifeforageproject.blogspot.com>

RRG&SA has negotiated a reduced Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) membership. The membership application is below.



MEMBERSHIP INVOICE

Sportsman's Alliance of Maine

Welcome Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association!

As you know SAM is a membership based organization with grass roots efforts from clubs such as yours. We hope you consider joining with us to help protect and secure our outdoor heritage. To make it easy we're cutting the annual and multi-year memberships in half for your dues paying members. Anyone who belongs to the Rangeley Region Guides Sportsmen's Assoc. is eligible to join SAM for half price.

Your current contact information:

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
Town _____ State _____ ZIP: _____	
Email:	_____

Life Memberships	
\$500	Individual
\$250	Senior Individual
\$600	Family
\$300	Senior Family
\$1000	Patron
\$2500	Benefactor
\$5000	Endowment

Single-year Memberships

- ___ \$10 Annual Membership Individual or Family (Save \$10)
- ___ \$5 Annual Membership Senior (65 and older) Individual or Family (Save \$5)

Multi-year Memberships

- ___ \$17.50 Two Years Individual/Family (Save \$17.50 off regular \$35)
- ___ \$10 Two Years Senior Individual/Family (Save \$10 off regular \$20)
- ___ \$25 Three Years Individual/Family (Save \$25 off regular \$50)
- ___ \$12.50 Three Years Senior Individual/Family (Save \$12.50 off regular \$25)
- ___ \$40 Five Years Individual/Family (Save \$40 off regular \$80)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

VISA/Mastercard# _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Code _____

If you desire a family membership, be sure to add spouse and/or children names below.

Family Names _____

Telephone _____

Questions? Call 207-622-5503 or becky@sportsmansallianceofmaine.org

Return to: SAM, 205 Church Hill Road, Augusta, ME 04330

You can also renew your membership at our new website: www.sportsmansallianceofmaine.org

JUNIOR GUIDES SUMMER 2011 PROGRAM

By Stephanie Palmer & Elaine Holcombe



In its 14th year, the Junior Guides experiential-environmental outdoor education program continues to be sponsored by the RRG&SA. Many member-volunteers provide expertise in several conservation, environmental aspects of outdoor recreation for boys and girls ages 9-11.

Elaine Holcombe has developed a unique curriculum that has as its base the SAFARI KIT, teaching specific identification skills, while identifying the traits of Maine's diverse wildlife and habitat. Lessons in canoe safety, how-to instruction and rescue were team taught by Elaine and Steve Masse. Steve was an important addition to our program this year not only in teaching canoe retrieval on our trout pond but adding support and knowledge to the other phases of our program.

Identification of insects, their habitat and how they are related to fly tying and fishing was also a major part of the SAFARI KIT. A day trip to South Bog Stream to capture and identify the insects was a great learning experience. Several member volunteers teach the techniques of tying flies. Harry Carey's 10th year as an instructor, sharing his enthusiasm and expertise results in a memorable Monday. Youngsters also have the opportunity of learning how to set up a fly rod and the how-to techniques of fly fishing listening to the instruction of our volunteers, wardens, and Maine Guides.

Doreen Sinnett expanded the first-aid portion of the program. As a registered nurse, she provided necessary information and hands-on practice for the participants to develop skills that could be used in many situations.

We were also fortunate to have had Bruce Farnham from Mount Blue State Park bring his mounts testing the youngsters' knowledge of the Maine mammals as well as

Sam Spaulding exhibiting his trapping techniques and equipment for the group.

Dick Moore adds another dimension to our program with the laser shot teaching gun safety and having the group try their ability at the many target games available with the program.

Nini Christensen has developed the advanced program with outdoor activities that included GPS and map skills, with a camp out at the Stevens Phillips Preserve. John Lysik and his son Jake were assistants for these activities.

The mentored day of fishing on the Kennebago, with thanks to the camp owners is always a highlight for the boys and girls who return with many a fish story to tell!! Our thanks to Jodi and Tom O'Rourke for hosting this special experience.

Our Junior Counselors, Britt Taylor, Jordan Shockley, Kelly Rogers, Ben Kozlowski, Ian and Brianna Welton are acknowledged for helping with our sessions.

We offer our condolences to Ian's family, his grandparents, Leona and Brand Kennett, on the loss of this young, talented teenager on October 2nd. It was a privilege to have known Ian and see him grow as a result of our many diversified offerings. Ian and Brianna completed both programs and volunteered their time to be counselors for the past 2 summers.

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE

By Harold Fay

Boy how time flies! The RRG&SA Rifle and Pistol Range finished off its' third season with a bang. In August our Junior Guides Program were at the range for a firearms orientation and shooting session. This has become an annual event for the older kids in the Junior Guides.

On October 8, 2011 we opened the range to the public to sight in their firearms and practice for the day. The Third Annual Turkey Shoot was held on October 9th with eight happy winners of either a turkey or ham for their holiday tables. Winners in the adult competition were Kirby Holcombe, Mike Frost, Tyler Philbrick, and Lyndall Hewey. In the youth competition winners were Elijah Fay, Wyatt DellaValle, Corbin Wardwell, and Scott Goltsos. Congratulations to all our winners.

On November 7th we had the RLRS Outdoor Club, under the leadership of Lucy Simonds, Nini Christensen and Jeanette Jacobs come out for some steel target shooting. Thanks go out to Ken Lemke, Tom Reed and Gerry White for their time and labor helping to make our range the success that it is.

We are looking forward to the 2012 season with high expectations for some fun competition during the Moose Festival weekend of June 22-24, 2012. Details of the competition will be announced in the near future. We are also planning to upgrade the target stands to steel bases with light weight removable wood target frames that shooters can remove and take home to be re-used the next time they come out to the range.

ARCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE POPULAR WITH KIDS AND ADULTS

By Mac Dudley



Archery programs at the Club continue to enjoy success. Our popular summer program, Olympic Style Archery for Kids has run for several years. Use of our shooting lanes and our 3-D range continues to grow based on donations and the number of holes in the backboards and 3-D targets.

The highlight of our summer archery program is the Olympic style archery program. Participants, who are 9-16 years old, learn the skills of the sport as well as some bow hunting technique for those who are interested. Ironically, the highest percentages that wanted to learn bow hunting techniques and shoot at a 3-D animal targets were girls. I take the students through a lesson plan focusing on archery safety, learning about the equipment, inspecting the equipment for safe use, and The Nine Steps to shooting and problem identification and correction to shooting form.

On the first day of class I check each student for eye dominance determination. I then go over safety rules and procedures on the archery range as well as whistle commands. The kids are ready for the outdoor archery activities. I start the students out with what is known as a blank bail or blank target. Here, I do one on one instruction with each student. The others observe so that they understand the 9 steps to shooting a bow and arrow. Once the students have gone two rounds with one on one they move on to a large bull's eye target and learn how to score their hits.

The second day they learn about different types of bows and arrows, they review the safety rules do their warm up exercise before the shooting activities begin. On this day they start out by pairing up with a teammate and again with the large bulls eye target. Towards the end of the class I put up smaller targets. This helps them with tighter grouping of arrows and better scoring.

The third day is the favorite of all. I provide the students with an archery song that reviews the 9 steps to shooting a bow and arrow. This we sign to the tune of Row, Row Row your Boat. They also get to review a short video segment of the 2000 Olympic Archery Finals where a gold medalist winner from a previous Olympic Games shoots a flaming arrow 100 yards to light the Olympic Torch. After watching the arrow light the torch for the opening games the kids are ready to compete. They start out again with a teammate, participating in various games going from a large to small targets. At the end of the day, all students receive prizes and awards. Moreover, they are archery safety experts, they know how to shoot Olympic style and they are able to practice shooting skills safely on their own.

This program was in its ninth year, is free to all participants with all equipment provided. This program would cost up to \$400.00 per student elsewhere.

CLUB WEB SITE

Please frequent our club web site for current news, schedule of events, and membership renewal form. www.rangeleyguidesandsportsmen.org

2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these 2012 events:

- o Regular membership potluck supper meetings are held @ 5:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month except December and January which are held on the 2nd Thursday. There is no meeting in April.
- o June 22-24: Moose Lottery Festival
- o July 2: Junior Guides, 6 consecutive Mondays 9 – 3.
- o July 12: Strawberry Festival/yard sale
- o July 19: Steak/Salmon Cookout 5:30
- o July 30, 31, August 6, 7: Hunter Safety Course
- o August 1,2,3: Archery Class
- o August 14: Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Rusty Harvey
VICE PRESIDENTS – Kirby Holcombe, Kevin Sinnett
SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe
TREASURER – Doug Rose
DIRECTORS: Marsha Baker, Lyn Hewey, Mac Dudley, Harold Fay, Don Miller, Dick Moore, Don Palmer, Shelby Rousseau, Sam Spaulding, Gerry White, Bill Brittain, Sheri Oldham.

