



Professional Guide

The Official Newsletter of the Maine Professional Guides Association

August 2007

PO Box 336 • Augusta, Maine 04332 • www.maineguides.org • Email: info@maineguides.org

President's Report

By
Rick Hill, President

The day our June newsletter hit members' mailboxes, I received phone calls from several of you praising the work that had been put into it and its content. That tells me that we are doing something right!

Board Announces Executive Director Position

Our biggest news item to date came about at our last director's meeting on July 22nd. After over six months of work by our dedicated Restructuring Committee, and a good deal of discussion, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to install Vice President John Rust as our professional Executive Director.

The fact of the matter is that John has been performing the duties of Executive Director for some time now on a volunteer basis. In the Board's mind, there is no better candidate for the job. Through his current consulting business and professional connections, John brings a

wealth of knowledge and professionalism to the table, and has demonstrated that time and time again.

This is a new milestone for the MPGA and deserves 100% support from the membership. It will put us on a whole new level to meet the challenges we face today and tomorrow and will transform the organization into a much more professional stature.

Having been an active participant, officer, and director in this organization since its inception, nothing could make me prouder of what we have now accomplished here with this new position.

Board Creates Executive Committee

That being said, however, the message still remains – we ALL have to do our part to make this work effectively for the betterment of the organization and for guides.

One man can't do the job alone and should not be expected to. An Executive Committee has been established to work with John and help him coordinate Association administration activities and involvement where deemed necessary.

It should also be understood that this is uncharted ground for MPGA, and it will be a work in progress for a while until we get organized in this new arena. However, it will be worth our patience in the end.

Board Contracts with Fundraising Consultants

Our first project at this new level will be partnering with Eaton Peabody Consulting Group, our bear referendum champions, to pursue funding from allies, friends, and other supporters of our interests. A 501c3 charitable tax status is being set up in the form of the "Maine Guides Education Fund", so donations to that fund are tax deductible. This will be a very important first step in the successful implementation of the new position.

MPGA is poised to show its stuff

...Continued on Page 3

MPGA Officers

Chairman:	Don Dudley, Patten	446-6170
President:	Rick Hill, Mt. Chase	528-2183
Vice Pres:	John Rust, Hampden	337-5858
Secretary:	Bert Goodman, Patten	528-2320
Treasurer:	Bob Parker, Wilton	778-4077

In This Issue

President's Report – "Executive Director"	Page 1
2007 Super Raffle Contest – Win This Rifle"	Page 2
MPGA Endorses "Striper September"	Page 3
Legislative Report	Page 3
ProPlan Info	Page 7
Plan or No Plan? Plum Creek Issues	Page 8
Relations with IF&W Professionals	Page 12
Baldacci Names Allagash Advisory Council	Page 14
Officers, Directors, & Committees	Page 14
Membership info	page 14
Maine Guides Education Fund	Page 15
MPGA Contributor Scorecard	Page 16
MPGA Meeting Schedule	Page 16

Get Your Ticket Package and Win this Rifle

Bert Goodman,
Super Raffle Committee Chairman



Top ticket sellers will receive this one of a kind Marlin 45/70 Guides Gun with the MPGA logo etched into the stock – See Below

We have made a really exciting change to the Super Raffle this year – a special incentive for selling tickets that you won't be able to resist.

Super Raffle

We meet our challenges head on through our lobbying and involvement on many fronts. This takes lots of money. *We must raise money to protect our outdoor traditions and our businesses.*

In 2005, the first year for our new super raffle, we raised over \$22,000. We can do this again this year.

Super Raffle is our primary means for raising the money needed to protect our proud guiding and outdoor traditions. All guides and our Association depend on your support and participation.

For those of you who don't know how the Super Raffle works, it is really simple. There are ten categories of outdoor vacation experiences that are donated by our members. You buy tickets, and then choose which categories to enter, based on how many chances you buy. Three chances are \$25 – Seven chances are \$50 – and Fifteen chances are \$100. Everyone who buys tickets is automatically included in a bonus drawing – a \$1,000 LL Bean gift certificate.

Earn a Marlin Guides' Rifle

We have made a really exciting change to the raffle this year. Every one of you who sells \$1,500 worth of tickets will receive a gorgeous Marlin 45/70 Guides Model Rifle, personalized with the MPGA "Professional Guide" logo on the stock (see photo).

How many of you are going to own this rifle? Think about it. It's easier than you think.

How many guests will you have this fall? All you have to do is sell fifteen \$100 tickets, or thirty \$50 tickets, or sixty \$25 tickets. It's up to you. We already have one member who sold to two retired high school teachers \$500 in tickets. Each!

The Super Raffle prizes are great, and these tickets really are easy to sell.

Earn a \$200 LL Bean Gift Certificate

If you sell only \$1,000 in tickets, you will receive a \$200 LL Bean gift certificate. If you sell at least \$500 in tickets, you will receive a \$100 LL Bean gift certificate. That's five to ten ticket sales – every one of you could easily do that.

Free Advertising

And, by the way, if you have not already pledged a trip for the Super Raffle, go to the MPGA website and sign up today. It is a win-win deal.

Each member who pledges to donate a trip is listed on our special Super Raffle website. Each trip displays your trip info, and a link to your own website. This free link is worth over \$100 at today's online advertising rates, and will generate many visits to your website. Just ask those who have been listed for our previous raffles.

Hunting Guides Take Note

Fall hunting season is a terrific time to sell these tickets. Hunters are excited, and ready to help protect their sport and access to hunting lands.

Start right out at your welcome session. Let them know what goes on, and what MPGA is striving to do for hunters. It works.

Super Raffle Info

Prize list, Ticket form, Contest Prize info, Trip Pledge form – Visit our website:

<http://www.maine-guides.org/super-raffle/>

Ticket package with Numbered tickets, Contest info, Questions – Contact:

Bert Goodman

P.O. Box 323

Patten, ME 04765

(207) 528-2320

Email: info@northcountrylodge.com

"You win – MPGA wins – Guides win"

MPGA is poised to show its stuff

Skip Trask's sharply honed legislative effort in Augusta is assured. John's efforts to keep the Association well coordinated and involved with issues and other groups affecting guides is assured like never before. And we have a team in place to raise the funds to keep them all at their tasks.

Our success going forward will be a direct result of membership support and involvement. There has NEVER been a BETTER time to be a member of this Association. If you are, get involved! If you aren't, JOIN!!

A few people are working very hard to protect YOUR business and interests!

Let's keep them at it!

Rick Hill
President

MPGA Endorses "Striper September"

Members to Receive 20% Discount

MPGA has endorsed the "17 Rivers Striper Tournament" known as "Striper September" – a catch and release tournament to be held from September 1st through September 30th, 2007, in the coastal zone from Harpswell to Owls Head.

"Whenever groups of guides get together with common interests, a better awareness of each other's issues prevails, and we all come out ahead," said MPGA President, Rick Hill.

The organizer, Robert Fernald, offers active MPGA members a 20% discount on angler registration fees. For those professional guides who specialize in saltwater striper fishing, the event also offers the opportunity to become "Official Tournament Guides" at a minimum sponsorship level. The Tournament Guides will be listed on the tournament website, with a hyperlink to their business website – a great promotional opportunity!

For more information, visit the event website www.mainestriperseptember.com or contact Robert C. Fernald, event organizer, at (207) 389-1722 or by email: rfernal@suscom-maine.net.

Legislative Report

By
Skip Trask, Legislative Liaison

Salt Water Fishing License Dead For the Time Being

The bill to establish a salt-water fishing license (LD 1811) was finally "put to rest" in the final days of the legislative session that ended June 21st. The original bill would have actually created a fishing license for Maine's coastal waters.

Strong objection by MPGA, the Charterboat Captains, SAM and others, however, caused the Committee on Marine resources to scuttle the original bill and replace it with a resolve requiring a more comprehensive review of the entire complex issue.

The resolve directed the Commissioner of Marine Resources to:

"develop and determine how to implement a saltwater recreational fishing license, permit or registry for the coastal waters of the State that will exempt saltwater recreational anglers and charter boat fishing vessels from registering under the federal registration program established in the reauthorized federal Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act".

Had this resolve been enacted, the Commissioner of Marine Resources would have been required to report back to the Committee next January with his recommendations. Although the resolve was enacted by the House, it ran into trouble in the Senate with a motion to table it indefinitely. The House eventually reversed its earlier action and agreed to go along with (adhere) to the tabling motion in the Senate, killing the bill in its entirety.

That means there is no longer anything "officially" in the works to establish a salt water fishing license in Maine. If the Department of Marine Resources decides to continue pushing for this license, they will need to submit a new bill and start the process all over again.

Is Maine's Game Registration System Obsolete?

Hunting season is just around the corner and guides are again discussing a topic that creates a great deal of confusion each year – what parts of a big game animal must be presented to the registration agent before the animal can be legally tagged?

...Continued on Next Page

Ask that question of a hunter, a guide, a game warden and a game registration agent, and I can almost guarantee that you'll get at least two different answers and probably three or four.

Why? The reason, in my opinion, is pretty simple. Everybody looks at it differently.

Local hunters usually present the entire animal, minus the viscera, so they assume that's what they are legally required to do.

Guides usually know exactly what the law requires, but they often bone out the animal back in the woods and see little value in packing out the legs of a boned out bear (especially when the law allows them to leave the legs of a moose).

Game wardens are primarily interested in whether an animal was legally harvested and whether it was properly registered by the person who killed it. Many wardens don't get overly excited about where leg bones end up.

Registration agents just want to get the job done quickly so they can get back to pumping gas and selling soda pop. Many of the people that are supposed to tag the animal are part-time employees. They didn't know that this was part of the job when they signed on at eight bucks an hour, and some of them are pretty squeamish about placing a tag in a dead animal. They sometimes just hand the tag to the hunter or guide. The last thing in the world they care about is what parts of the animal are supposed to be there.

To clear up some of the confusion about this topic, this is what the law requires:

A person who kills a bear, deer, moose or turkey must present the entire animal for registration, except that the viscera and rib cage may be removed as long as it is done in such a way that permits determination of the sex of the animal. A moose may be dismembered for ease of transportation, and the lower legs, head and hide of the moose may be removed. If the head of the moose is not brought to the registration station, a canine tooth or the lower jaw must also be presented at time of registration. The parts of a moose not presented for registration may not be discarded where they are visible to a person traveling on a public or private way.

As you can see, the law does not address the issue of dismembering deer or bear for ease of transportation as it does with moose. Many guides dismember these animals

in the woods, however, and I don't recall ever hearing of anyone getting in trouble because of it.

As for the leg bones of bear and deer, even though the meat may have been removed, there is no exception. Although it doesn't make a lot of sense, the law requires that the leg bones of these animals be presented at time of registration along with the rest of the animal.

Now that we have a "wanton waste" law, part of the MPGA legislation enacted this past winter, perhaps it's time to take another look at what parts of an animal must be presented at time of registration. Perhaps some changes are in order.

Maybe its time to think about getting rid of the current registration process altogether and go to some type of honor system. Several other states have already gone that route, and from what I hear, it works pretty well. I'll be discussing this possibility with the Board of Directors at upcoming meetings.

Will December Grouse Hunting Be Shut Down?

In response to petitions to shorten the grouse season by one month, IF&W has held public hearings to solicit additional input.

The most recent Department update on this proposal, provided to MPGA representatives shortly after the comment deadline, indicates a fair amount of support among hunters to eliminate December grouse hunting.

Most of the support is coming from northern and eastern parts of the state. It has even been rumored that the Department might consider shutting down the season at the end of November only in Washington and Aroostook Counties.

That, in my opinion, would be a mistake. The wildlife resources belong to all of us, not just to the locals. If there is a biological need to shorten the season, it should be done by Wildlife Management District in those WMDs where it is needed. If there is no biological justification, the season dates should be left alone.

The issue of December grouse hunting has generated considerable controversy for decades. Extending the season into the winter months when grouse are often seen "budding" in the tops of hardwood trees is viewed by some as encouraging what some consider being unsportsmanlike practices. Some also believe that these extended seasons remove too many birds and negatively impact reproduction the following spring.

For years, in the name of conservation, the grouse season in northern Maine ended in mid November.

Although it doesn't make a lot of sense, the law requires that the leg bones of Deer and Bear be presented at time of registration.

Even after studies in several other northern states showed that grouse seasons extending through December (and even January) had negligible impact on grouse populations, Maine was reluctant to extend the grouse season beyond the end of the deer hunting season.

More than twenty years ago the Department, through the rule making process, legalized December grouse hunting only to have the Legislature move the season back to November 30th.

Eventually that law was repealed, and December grouse hunting was restored.

Many grouse hunters, especially those who hunt with dogs, applauded that decision. Even those that don't agree with the extended season have become more tolerant and don't make much of an issue of it until a fall when birds are scarce. A couple of poor grouse seasons, however, and the age-old controversy about December grouse hunting is again re-ignited.

Numerous studies have shown that low grouse populations have much to do with spring nesting and rearing conditions and little to do with hunting mortality the previous season. Hunting is "additive" to natural grouse mortality only when hunting pressure is intense and/or when bird movement is hindered by fragmented habitat. Neither of those conditions are currently a major problem in our state.

December grouse hunting provides hundreds of hours of opportunity for hunters to work their dogs after most of the deer hunters are gone and gives grouse hunting guides a chance to take on a few additional clients.

Although there will always be disagreement about when and how we should hunt grouse, the science clearly shows that relatively light hunting pressure during the month of December is not affecting our grouse population.

As a result, MPGA submitted written comments to the Department strongly opposing the December closure. The Department will make a final decision on this proposal within the next few weeks. Let's hope that their decision is based on sound wildlife management.

Defeat of Bear Trapping Bill Sets Important Precedent

The recent defeat of the bill to ban bear trapping (LD 1635) was important to MPGA for a number of reasons.

Of the three bear harvesting methods that came under attack during the 2004 Bear Referendum, trapping is by far the most vulnerable. WAM's inability to get this bill enacted strongly suggests that a majority of Legislators

will continue to honor the results of the defeated referendum for at least a few more years and that all of our bear harvesting methods are secure for now.

In fact, now that the Fish and Wildlife Department has adopted a rule making it illegal to trap for bears with the use of steel-jawed foothold traps, bear trapping will be far less controversial than it has been in the past.

For the foreseeable future, our members will be able to continue offering their services to folks interested in taking a bear with a trap and that is important to more of our members than you might think.

Bear Trapping Important To MPGA Members

In the aftermath of the Bear referendum the MPGA established a Bear Committee. One of the primary functions of this committee was to get a better handle on the various bear harvesting methods utilized by our members and to solicit feedback on what our Association could do to make things better for guides as well as to protect the future of the bear guiding industry.

Questionnaires were sent out and the response was overwhelming. One of the things that really surprised me was the number of guides that cater to bear trappers. Although very few guides rely on trappers as the primary source of their guiding income, quite a few derive at least a portion of their livelihood each year by assisting trappers in attempting to catch a bear.

Last year there were 130 bears taken by trapping (about 5% of the total harvest). Nearly half of all successful bear trappers employed the services of a guide. More than 100 nonresidents came to Maine in hopes of taking a bear with the use of a trap. They spent nearly \$35,000 for their trapping licenses (\$310 each) and paid an estimated \$150,000 to guides and outfitters.

Beginning in 2008, bear trappers will be required to purchase a bear permit just like hunters are required to do. These new bear trapping fees, along with the fees from the new permit for nonresidents who wish to take a bear during the deer-hunting season, will go into a special non-lapsing account to pay for projects that will enhance black bear management.

These changes were suggested by our Bear Committee, endorsed by the MPGA Board of Directors and included in the bill we were able to get enacted into law last winter (LD728 - An Act to Enhance the Wise Use and Sound Management of Maine's Wildlife Resources).

Science clearly shows that relatively light hunting pressure during the month of December is not affecting our Grouse population

Bear Trapping Guides Face Tighter Restrictions

There are several laws and rules that apply to both guides and clients while attempting to trap a bear. Some of these changes are new. Others have been around for a while but don't get a lot of publicity.

As I mentioned earlier, the Fish and Wildlife Department recently adopted a rule making it illegal to trap for bears with the use of steel-jawed foothold traps. At the time they made this change, they also reduced from two to one the number of bear traps that a person may use at any one time to trap for bears. These two recent changes are already in effect.

That means that during the 2007 bear trapping season, a person who holds a valid trapping license may only have one trap set for bear at any given time, and the trap must be either a cage-type live trap or a cable trap (foot snare). Whenever a cable trap is used, the trap must be set at or below ground level in such a manner as to catch the animal only by the foot or leg.

A bear caught in either a cage trap or cable trap must be killed or released and not be moved away from the catch site alive. A bear caught in a trap may not be used in conjunction with a hunt or to train a dog for bear hunting. It is illegal for person to catch a bear in a trap and allow another person to kill or register that bear.

Bear Dispatch Permits Still Required For Start of 2007 Season

Another provision included in the MPGA bill that was signed into law on May 27th will allow any licensed hunting guide to go out after legal hunting hours and dispatch a big game animal that has been wounded by that guide's client.

This authority will be granted as part of the guide's license and replaces the dispatch permit that guides have been required to obtain annually in order for their clients to track down and dispatch a wounded bear after dark.

The new law doesn't just apply to bears. It also includes deer and moose.

Another change from the old dispatch permit is that it **will be the guide, and not the client**, who will be allowed to carry the firearm and dispatch the wounded animal.

A guide will also be allowed to use a dog to assist in locating wounded animals without the need for a separate leashed-dog tracking license.

However, new laws don't become effective until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns for the year. That means that most laws enacted this past session will not go into effect until September 20, 2007 – more than three weeks into the bear hunting season.

NOTICE TO BEAR GUIDES

All guides should be aware that from the start of the bear hunting season until September 20th they will need the old-style bear dispatch permit to track and dispose of a wounded bear after legal hunting hours.

A hunter is only protected by the ITP if the killing of a Barrow's Goldeneye is accidental, the incident is reported to IF&W as soon as practical, and the bird is turned in to a game warden or other IF&W official

As in the past, these permits are available at Regional Offices of IF&W. After September 20th, and in future years, your guide's license will allow you to perform this service for your clients without the need to acquire an additional permit or to call a warden for permission.

Hunters to be Protected for Accidentally Shooting Threatened Goldeneye

A Department bill was enacted this past session that added several species of wildlife to the State list of Threatened and Endangered Species. Included in that list is the Barrow's Goldeneye duck.

For those unfamiliar with the process, the Department recommends and the Legislature makes the final decision on which species are added to or removed from the state list. (Note: State listing of threatened and endangered species is completely separate from, and has no direct connection to, the federal Endangered Species Act. For example, the lynx is listed as threatened throughout the lower 48 states under the federal ESA, but an adequate number of lynx exist in Maine to keep them off the state list.)

When the public hearing was held to consider additions to the threatened and endangered list, MPGA testified in opposition to listing the Barrow's Goldeneye as a threatened species.

Our primary objection was that Barrow's Goldeneyes are found in the same habitat as Common Goldeneyes, an abundant and heavily hunted species, and, in flight, it is virtually impossible to distinguish one from the other.

However, when it became obvious that the Legislature was going to go along with IF&W's recommendations to add the Barrow's to the list, it was time to figure out a way to protect the interest of our members.

...Continued on Next Page

I discussed the situation with George Smith and Don Kliener, who had both opposed the listing – George on behalf of SAM and Don, who lobbies for the bow hunters and turkey hunters, but also guides duck hunters along the coast and has had clients take Barrow’s Goldeneyes.

The three of us then met with Department officials and key legislators. The agreed solution was that IF&W would issue an “Incidental Take Permit” (ITP) to protect any hunter who might accidentally shoot a Barrow’s Goldeneye while hunting other species of waterfowl.

A few days ago I spoke with wildlife officials and learned that the ITP is being finalized and will be in place prior to the start of the upcoming waterfowl season.

Guides should understand that their client (or anyone else) is only protected by the ITP if the killing of a Barrow’s Goldeneye is accidental, the incident is reported to the Department as soon as practical, and the bird is turned in to a game warden or other Department official.

Failure to follow these procedures negates the provisions of the ITP, and the violator will be subject to prosecution and license revocation.

What Activities Require a Guide’s License?

The time has come for a comprehensive review of the various outdoor recreational activities that are routinely offered for sale to members of the public. It should be determined, based on specific criteria, whether the services being offered constitute guiding services and should require a guide’s license.

Eco-tourism is being promoted by many organizations as one means to help bolster our economy, especially in rural areas of interior portions of the state.

One of the claims being circulated is that eco-tourism will provide a tremendous boost to the guiding industry. There is little doubt that eco-tourism has already provided significant economic benefits to many Maine guides, and the demand for these types of services is increasing.

There is, however, one big problem. Many people, including the folks responsible for promoting tourism in Maine, don’t seem to understand that the majority of activities that fall within the definition of eco-tourism do not require a guide’s license.

Any person, without a license to guide, may legally charge a fee to take clients to remote areas to engage in all sorts of outdoor activities. These people provide all the services normally associated with guiding, but they don’t need any of the qualifications that the guide licensing process requires.

A person must have a guide’s license to charge a fee to take a client by boat or by snowmobile to a remote pond to photograph wildlife. However, a person *does not* need a guide’s license to take that same client to that

same remote pond to photograph that same wildlife if the trip is made by ATV, on foot, on cross-country skis, on snowshoes, or by motor vehicle.

Currently, a guide’s license is required only if a person receives remuneration for his or her services:

“in accompanying or assisting a person in the fields or forests or on the waters or ice within the jurisdiction of the State while hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, snowmobiling or camping at a primitive camping area”

Earlier this year I sent a letter to Commissioner Dan Martin on behalf of the MPGA requesting that IF&W consider setting up a working group of appropriate stakeholders to help determine if there are additional outdoor recreational activities that should be included in the list of activities requiring a guide’s license.

The Commissioner agreed to form this working group and has indicated that Deputy Commissioner Paul Jacques will likely serve as the chair. It is our hope that this review will be completed over the next year and that any recommended changes could be submitted as Department legislation during the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature.

Have a great fall season!

Skip Trask
Legislative Liaison

ProPlan

Still there. Still a great deal. But when we change from a lengthy magazine format to this rapid response newsletter format, something had to give. And one thing will be the regular listing of ProPlan offerings.

But not to worry! ProPlan info will soon be published in two forms: 1) a webpage will soon be available on the Association website; and 2) full information will be included in our new Professional Guide “Annual” Edition that will be available next January.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions or want to place a LL Bean order, just contact Bob Parker, our ProPlan Coordinator. Contact Bob Parker at 778-4077, or send an email to: info@maineguides.org

Plan or No Plan?

Which Approach to Plum Creek's Moosehead Concept Plan Best Protects Guides?

This is business – guides' business.

As a business owner, you must ask yourself “will Plum Creek's Moosehead Plan help or hurt my business?” You must also ask yourself “will my business be better off, or worse off, if this proposal is accepted or rejected?”

The answers vary. Some parts of this plan have direct impacts on guides – some good (+), some bad (-). How much of each becomes a very personal issue.

MPGA's Board supports some key parts of the plan, such as long term predictability, permanent conservation on over 400,000 acres of commercial forest land, public access privileges, and hunting rights. These are major considerations we could all surely support.

But there are deep concerns about making certain those good things happen in ways so guides will benefit and not lose. The MPGA Board has decided to intervene in LURC's review process so our concerns can be aired, and perhaps resolved.

Predictable Future (+)

Long Term planning is vital to Guides' businesses. Guides must make long term business plans and major investments in order to carry out their recreational sporting activities and develop their business and family incomes.

Having a long term land use plan is a critical benefit of Plum Creek's proposal. We will know where development can take place, and therefore where to plan our future guiding activities.

Plum Creek's original proposal provided thirty years of predictability. Now, the future is certain forever on 431,000 acres, and 22,000 more is certain for the next thirty years.

Massive Permanent Conservation (+)

In total, more than 431,000 acres of permanent conservation with public access rights will be enabled upon approval of Plum Creek's plan. This represents the second-largest conservation easement in U.S. history.

Guides need special places where fish and wildlife are undisturbed and may be enjoyed by all outdoor enthusiasts including fishermen, hunters, paddlers and sightseers.

Plum Creek's plan will place permanent conservation easements on over 186 miles of shoreline, including over 60 remote ponds, some of which support thriving wild brook trout populations.

...Continued on Next Page

	If Plan is Approved	If Plan is Not Approved
Guides Will Gain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictable Future • More restriction on Development • Massive Permanent Conservation • Guaranteed Public Access • Guaranteed Hunting Access • 186 miles of shoreline protection • No development on 60 ponds • 74 miles guaranteed ITS snowmobile trails • 79 miles guaranteed hiking trails • Likelihood for continued permission to use nearly 1,000 miles of forestry roads • Customers attracted to new commercial lodging facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpredictable Future • More shoreline Development • Zero Permanent Conservation • Public Access not guaranteed • Hunting Access not guaranteed • No shorelines protected • Waterfront development on many small ponds • No guaranteed ITS snowmobile trails • No guaranteed hiking trails • New landowners who might deny permission to use nearly 1,000 miles of forestry roads • No new commercial lodging to help attract Customers
Guides Will Lose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on 22,000 acres (actual construction on up to 11,445 acres) • Loss of motorized access on up to 75,000 acres • Loss of Bear Hunting access on 30,000 acres • Potential for loss of “Practical” access on 431,000 acres, if a new landowner chooses to deny permission to use nearly 1,000 miles of forestry roads, or to prohibit snowmobiles • Potential loss of certain hunting methods, such as bear baiting, if a new landowner so chooses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development spread throughout a 29 township, 408,000 acre, region, with potential for larger lots and kingdom lots • Loss of motorized access on up to 75,000 acres • Loss of Bear Hunting access on 30,000 acres • Potential for loss of “Practical” access on 431,000 acres, if a new landowner chooses to deny permission to use nearly 1,000 miles of forestry roads, or to prohibit snowmobiles • Potential loss of certain hunting methods, such as bear baiting, if a new landowner so chooses

Maine's working forest is vital for hunting, camping and recreation guides, as well as for the region's forest products economy and wildlife populations. Plum Creek's plan assures that over 431,000 acres will remain as undeveloped forests. Permanently! That's twice the size of Baxter State Park, and eleven times that of Acadia National Park.

The Conservation comes in three parts:

1. 90,000 acre "Balance" easement to be held by the Forest Society of Maine – Plum Creek will donate this easement. The easement prohibits future development. The areas wrap around all proposed development to contain future development pressure, and around dozens of ponds and miles of shoreline.
2. 266,000 acre Conservation Framework "Moosehead Legacy Conservation Easement" to be purchased by the Nature Conservancy for approximately \$10 million. The easement prohibits future development.
3. 75,000 acre Conservation Framework "Fee Purchase" valued at \$25 million, consisting of: 45,000 acres at Number Five Bog adjacent to current conservation lands, to be purchased by the Nature Conservancy; and 29,500 acres around the upper Roach Ponds to be purchased by the Appalachian Mountain Club. They will have five years from the date of LURC approval and Plum Creek acceptance of the Concept Plan to complete the transactions. More about these below.

The "Balance" and Moosehead Legacy" easements will keep lands undeveloped, ensure traditional public access including hunting, fishing, and hiking, protect ecologically important attributes and assure that forest management would continue to be conducted in a sustainable manner.

Public Access (+)

Guides depend on access to, and the use of, Maine's forest areas, and are grateful to those landowners who share their property with the public. Guides must support these generous landowners, and their right to control their own property.

The conservation easements require that public access and hunting will be allowed. However, it is up to the landowner (currently Plum Creek) to make decisions about where and when motorized access and road use (autos, snowmobiles and ATV's) will be allowed.

Although certainly within their rights, several other landowners in the region have not been as generous to sportsmen. For instance, The Nature Conservancy, the

AMC, and Roxanne Quimby have all blocked off motorized access. They have closed snowmobiling trails, as well as vehicle access by hunters, fishermen, campers and sightseers. To varying degrees, they have also closed lands to hunting regardless of transportation mode.

Preserving Maine's Open Access Tradition (+)

One key element for guides is surely the same reason why the Maine Snowmobile Association has supported the proposal - guides and snowmobilers need access permission from willing landowners, but the landowners don't need us.

Maine's land access traditions came about several centuries ago when our forefathers rejected the European system where only landed royalty could hunt or fish.

Maine's tradition of open land access has been a privilege for sportsmen for nearly four hundred years. This "gentlemen's agreement" is not understood or accepted by some of Maine's recent forest land buyers.

As roads were developed over the past one hundred years, access to outdoor opportunities increased and guides, hunters, fishermen and sightseers benefited. We are therefore very grateful when landowners continue to allow open access, and Plum Creek has been one of the best.

Land Sale Likely to Destroy Access (-)

The fee purchase of the 29,500-acre Roach Ponds tract would become a keystone piece in a corridor of protected lands stretching from Gulf Hags northward to Baxter State Park. That's good.

Currently, the AMC holds a contract to purchase this area from Plum Creek. This is not good. Plum Creek's contract is contingent upon LURC's approval of the plan. But if the plan is rejected, Plum Creek might still sell the parcel to the AMC, who has already raised the money to pay for the deal. That's not good either.

Why, you ask, is that not good?

Plum Creek's original plan was to allow the State seven years to buy this tract. The Bureau of Parks & Lands would then hold public sessions and hearings to develop a management plan that, for the most part, is workable for most parties. At least we all have a chance to give input.

A later version changed this, with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) buying the parcel. It was anticipated that TNC would grant this parcel to the State. The only concern here for sportsmen was that the Nature Conservancy might add use restrictions into the deed – like no motorized vehicles or no bear baiting, for instance. Already, this was not looking good.

...Continued on Next Page

When a final deal was put together and announced a year ago, the Nature Conservancy immediately assigned their purchase agreement with Plum Creek to the AMC. Hence, the AMC can buy this land.

The AMC has shown their ready willingness to prohibit motorized access and hunting. Their 37,000 acre Katahdin Ironworks lands adjoins this Roach Pond parcel. On those lands, the AMC created a 10,500 acre ecological preserve with no motorized uses permitted. Hunting would be permitted, but access to actual hunting areas is by foot only. Same for game retrieval. The AMC also chose to prohibit bear baiting on all 37,000 acres – despite receiving nearly \$6.5 million in taxpayer money that specifically requires hunting to be allowed!

When the AMC acquires the Roach Pond area, they plan to continue with the same plans, as part of their “Maine Woods Initiative.” This is likely to mean another 29,500 acres with no motorized access, and no bear hunting. On that large of an area, public access for other hunters, fishermen, sightseers and wildlife watchers will be lost for all practical purposes.

Another Land Sale Likely to Destroy Access (-)

Plum Creek’s contract with The Nature Conservancy includes another 45,200 acres outside the Moosehead area – including the last portion of Number Five Bog not already in conservation and a substantial portion of the popular Moose River Bow Trip. To the north, the proposed reserve abuts Forest Society of Maine land holdings and easement in Attean Township, and the State’s Holeb Unit.

Of that, a 15,000 acre tract includes the last unprotected portion of one of the Northeast’s most outstanding peatlands, Number 5 Bog, and the remaining unprotected stretch of the popular Moose River Bow Trip. This parcel would become an ecological reserve most likely managed by the Bureau of Parks and Land.

The remaining 30,200 acres just to the south would be managed as a working forest with conservation restrictions.

Some or all these lands may restrict motorized vehicle access and hunting to the point that the public is in reality shut out. The Nature Conservancy has generally kept lands open, but they have closed bear baiting on a large tract along the St John River, and roads have been blocked in other areas. TNC officials have also stated to MPG Board members that they do not support bear baiting.

Less Development than LURC Allows (+)

Development will occur even without this plan, just as it has up until now. However, without a long term plan there would likely be even more development, just without any long term certainty or conservation protections.

Plum Creek has agreed to not develop many areas, including the entire shores of many ponds such as Prong Pond, where current LURC standards allow development. If LURC rejects Plum Creek’s proposal, those areas will almost definitely be developed – we just won’t know the when and how.

LURC could also create a plan of its own. LURC might actually end up allowing more development than Plum Creek has requested. For example, LURC completed a long term planning process for the Rangeley area.

Maine’s tradition of open land access has been a privilege for sportsmen for nearly four hundred years. This “gentlemen’s agreement” is not understood or accepted by some of Maine’s recent forest land buyers

This public process, with input from all concerned and interested parties, held to the two LURC principles of keeping development to the "fringe" areas (within two towns of an organized town), and to a set of formulas that set how many lots could be on a given size lake.

With the public's input, LURC’s Rangeley plan allows up to 650 units over 20 years in 10 townships. That is over 3 units per town, per year. Plus, being a public plan, there is nothing to keep that from being revised upward upon additional review – at any time. LURC has indeed done this, and this summer approved a major expansion and development at Saddleback. In addition,

LURC’s Rangeley plan has no requirement for any conservation aspects.

In contrast, Plum Creek's privately created long range plan for the Moosehead area allows 975 units, forever, in 29 townships. This maximum is locked in, without ability to seek a revision each year as allowed for in the Rangeley plan. That is only 1 unit per township for thirty years - only one third of the amount allowed for in the publicly approved Rangeley plan!

Consider how many units Plum Creek could have added under the actual LURC formulas and public long term plan. The plan easily meets the LURC formulas and “fringe” area restrictions. Plum Creek’s plan allows only a fraction of what they could have requested, a testament to the thoughtfulness they put into the plan and the region’s values.

...Continued on Next Page

Help in Attracting Customers (+)

Guides must have access to customers, and customers must have lodging and meal services. The additional lodging facilities will increase the number of potential sporting customers who might employ area guides and outfitters.

Several studies (like Fermata) indicate a need for newer style lodging that offers better amenities than the older 50's and 60's style facilities currently in the region. These facilities will offer opportunities for guided fishing, paddling trips, wildlife watching, snowmobile touring, and even hunting. They will need to fill all seasons with outdoor activities that guides are involved with.

However, we must be watchful that existing guiding activities that attract customers willing to pay one, two or three thousand dollars per visit, or several hundred dollars per day, are not harmed in favor of activities bringing in only \$40 or \$100 per visit or day.

Deer Wintering Areas and Special Wildlife Habitat

The plan now being reviewed by LURC is only a first step toward allowing certain land uses to change. If approved, all developers must still apply for subdivision and building permits.

This stage is when LURC reviews the details of what will be built, and where it is built. This review would cover wildlife habitat, wetlands, soil conditions, roads and a myriad of other details. LURC will discuss issues with IF&W's biologists, the Maine Natural Areas staff, and the historical and archaeological experts, to assure that vital areas and wildlife are properly protected.

Actual Development Proposals

Residential: 975 Units (236 shorefront lots, 739 back lots)

- Moosehead Lake –
 - Beaver Cove: 32 back lots
 - Lily Bay Peninsula: 154 back lots
 - Moose Bay: 12 shorefront, 100 back lots
 - Rte 6/15 Corridor: 20 shorefront, 105 back lots
- Upper Wilson Pond – 16 shorefront, 16 back lots
- Long Pond (Jackman & UT) – 75 shorefront, 35 back lots
- Brassua Lake – 110 shorefront, 140 back lots
- Rockwood (Blue Ridge area) – 3 shorefront, 157 back lots

Resorts:

- Lily Bay Peninsula Resort – 250 units
- Moose Mountain Resort – 800 units

Zoning Areas (22,000 acres)

- Protection Zones (wetlands) 1,500 acres
- Resort Zones 5,200
- Mixed Use Zones 430
- Commercial/Industrial 90 (existing now)
- Residential Zone 14,700
(975 lots will use only 5,725 acres)

Other Development

All the above deal with conservation and development – aspects having the most impact on guides. Plum Creek has made a number of other provisions as part of their overall plan, such as donating land for affordable housing and providing some space for service businesses.

There is also space within the 22,000 acre zoning areas that will be left undeveloped, but with provisions for LURC to review its status after thirty years. This is to allow LURC to then assess the area's needs for additional housing.

Who Will Control Northern Maine?

Intertwined with all this turmoil is the continuing controversy of who will control northern and inland Maine. With the advanced urbanization of Portland and southern Maine, we have repeatedly seen this issue arise.

The Clearcut Referendum. The Bear Hunting Referendum. The Allagash Wilderness Waterway. School Consolidation. Bear Trapping. Predator Control. Moose Hunting. Land use in the unorganized townships.

Those were all decidedly different issues depending on where you lived, and what your politics was. Will the southern Maine suburbanites, or the rural Maine residents, control the economic future of these areas?

Opposition

The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) is a leading opponent to Plum Creek's proposal. NRCM is working with Maine Audubon, Restore, Sierra Club and Environment Maine to oppose nearly all potential development in the unorganized townships.

Their vision is to create more "wilderness" areas, with no harvesting and no motorized vehicle access – as compared to the commercial working forest we have now with open access. NRCM has even requested that all Plum Creek's conservation easements be restricted to non-motorized uses only.

Remember, that' means 431,000 acres, the equivalent of two Baxter State Parks, with no motorized access.

The NRCM has raised a great deal of money based on this issue, and has helped form other organizations to oppose Plum Creek's plan.

...Continued on Next Page

Environment Maine has raised money and hired college students to canvas neighborhoods in Portland and southern Maine who often make false statements about the proposal. These students are paid wage rates for their part-time summer jobs at close to the average wage rate of all workers in Piscataquis County.

Coming this fall – a heavy barrage of television ads opposing the plan, to the budget tune of \$600,000 or so.

Questions to Ask

- What is a long term land use plan worth?
- What is 431,000 acres of permanent conservation land worth?
- What does Maine's open access tradition mean to you?
- How important is vehicle access on large land areas?
- How will the conservation affect you?
- Will your guiding activities be affected?
- How will the development affect you?
- Does a shorefront lot really affect hunting? Fishing?
- Will the public be allowed to continue vehicle access on woods roads?
- What would happen if a Roxanne Quimby type buys Plum Creek's lands in the future?
- Could you make Greenville your home base if there were more customers coming there?

The list goes on.

LURC's Public Hearings

LURC has tentative plans to hold hearings November 5th thru the 18th, but has not yet set a detailed hearing schedule. Hearings will likely take place at several locations, and will include evenings and weekends. You are encouraged to speak at the public hearings.

In the end, LURC may accept Plum Creek's application, they may make small changes to it, or they might reject it. Plum Creek could also reject LURC's changes, and proceed to develop the area under current LURC rules.

So, what is really better? Plan, or No Plan?

More Information

For info on the entire plan, visit these websites:

www.plumcreekplanmaine.com
www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/

Positive Relationship with IF&W Professionals Critical for Guides

By Skip Trask

Most folks that read this publication know that I spent nearly thirty years working for the Maine Fish and Wildlife Department (16 years as a game warden and 12 as the deputy commissioner).

Prior to becoming a game warden, I was an avid trapper, hunter and fisherman. Many would probably have referred to me as an outdoor fanatic!

I have now been retired from the F&W Department for 13 years and have been lobbying on behalf of Maine sportsmen and sportswomen for most of that time. I'm still in love with the Maine outdoors and various activities associated with it, including both the consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wildlife.

My point is that I've spent nearly an equal amount of time on "both sides of the fence", so to speak. I think I have a pretty good understanding both of public attitudes toward the Department as well as Department attitudes toward the various segments of the public.

As a lobbyist for the MPGA, I sometimes find myself on opposite sides of an issue from the F&W Department, and when the Department does something inappropriate, I'm one of their loudest critics. Just because we sometimes disagree with the Department, however, doesn't mean that we should ever develop an "us versus them" attitude.

Some of the finest people I know work at Fish and Wildlife. Taken as a whole, these professionals, be they biologists, wardens, license clerks or administrators, are extremely dedicated to managing and protecting the natural resources that define the lifestyles of Maine guides.

Guides Depend on IF&W Professionals

It doesn't matter if you are a guide that offers fly-fishing for trout, archery hunts for deer, coastal waterfowl hunts, wildlife watching cruises or remote canoe trips. The success of your business is dependent, to a large extent, on the job performance of the professionals that work at Fish and Wildlife. And for the most part, their performance has been outstanding!

There's nothing wrong with being critical of IF&W from time to time when the criticism is deserved. On the other hand, an ongoing positive relationship with the Department is vital to the future of our way of life.

Where would we be, for example, if IF&W had chosen to stay "neutral" during the bear referendum, as

...Continued on Next Page

has been the case in several other states that faced similar referendums? The Humane Society of the United States would still be celebrating!

That's why I'm so bothered when I sometimes encounter guides that are constantly criticizing either the local warden, or the regional biologist or the Department in general. If I'm hearing this criticism, I can only assume that the clients of these guides are also hearing it on a regular basis.

Not only are these guides doing a huge disservice to the highly competent folks that work at Fish and Wildlife, but they are also, perhaps without even knowing it, hurting themselves and their businesses.

Nobody, especially someone that has traveled to Maine to enjoy some form of outdoor recreation, wants to listen to a steady stream of complaints, criticisms and negative comments.

Having seen it from "both sides of the fence", were I ever to get into the business of guiding, one of the first things I'd do is establish a good working relationship with the local game wardens and the regional biologists.

There are lots of good reasons why this is important. Rather than just try to list them, I'm going to share with you a copy of a letter that was sent to the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife by a highly respected and very successful guide and lodge owner. I've had a copy of this letter in my files for quite a while, and this seemed like a good time to use it and prove a point:

Letter of Recognition From A Guide and Lodge Owner

"Dear Commissioner,

I would like to take this opportunity to give recognition to members of your staff. Making my living as a registered Maine guide and lodge owner and utilizing the hunting opportunities that we are fortunate to have available to us, I pride myself in attempting to conduct myself as a professional in every aspect of the industry. During our bear hunting season, all of my clients arrive on Sunday in anticipation of a quality experience in our northern forests. After a hearty meal, I sit down with everyone and give an orientation of the events for the upcoming week. This is the time for covering all aspects of the hunt; I cover everything from laws to game management and even get into timber management. For the past several years I have invited members of your staff to sit through my speech and provide additional information as needed.

**"Were I ever to get into the business of guiding, one of the first things I'd do is establish a good working relationship with the local game wardens and the regional biologists,"
Skip Trask**

The Game Warden Sergeant in the area has participated in these sessions as his work schedule allowed, and he has done an outstanding job representing your Department and the State of Maine. This has gone on for a few years, and many of my clients look forward to meeting and talking with him each year

This year I expanded my invitation to include the Regional Wildlife Biologist. To my delight he accepted and joined the Warden Sergeant at some of my meetings. He provided much information about bears as well as wildlife management in general. Having representation of this caliber from your Department has proved invaluable to me and my business, and I look forward to having them both back again as their schedules allow.

The Warden Sergeant and Wildlife Biologist are Department representatives that I feel fortunate to have had the pleasure of working with, and they are both deserving of recognition for their professionalism, their dedication and their support of the guiding industry. If you would ever like to see how we operate, it would be my pleasure to have you join us some Sunday evening next season."

I also have a copy of the letter that was sent to the involved Warden Sergeant from the Chief Warden following receipt of the complimentary letter from the guide (the Wildlife Biologist received a similar letter from the top wildlife official):

Follow Up From the Warden Colonel

"Dear (Warden Sergeant),

I have enclosed a copy of a letter that was sent to the Commissioner from the owner of a sporting camp in your area. I wanted to personally commend you for your efforts in accommodating this lodge owner as he prepares his clients for a week of hunting.

This is exactly the relationship that I feel wardens should have with sporting camp owners and guides. You are certainly setting a fine example for the wardens in your Section and throughout the Division."

This is the type of relationship that, in my opinion, is extremely important to the future of the guiding industry in the State of Maine.

Wouldn't we all be better served if we made an effort to develop this type of relationship with Department employees rather than constantly criticize them, stay as

...Continued on Next Page

far away from them as possible and make them wonder what it is we are trying to hide?

Over the years I've kept pretty close tabs on the losses that sportsmen and sportswomen in other states have suffered at the hands of the protectionists. Almost without exception, the greatest losses have come in states where the sporting community was constantly at odds with the state wildlife agency.

It is absolutely clear, at least to me, that we, as hunters, anglers, trappers and guides, cannot continually "beat up on" our state fish and wildlife department and then expect that same department to "come to the rescue" when a ballot initiative or lawsuit threatens to destroy our lifestyles and livelihoods.

Get To Know Your Local Wardens and Regional Biologists

On a more personal note, having a close working relationship with the local wardens and biologists will have a definite impact on how guides and their clients are treated by these officials during chance encounters.

Wardens and biologists are just as human as anyone else and, whether you think it's right or wrong, you are much more likely to be "given the benefit of the doubt" in an iffy situation by an official that knows you personally and believes you can be trusted than by an official that knows nothing about you or how you operate.

Governor Names New Allagash Advisory Council

Governor Baldacci has announced the members of the new Allagash Wilderness Waterway Advisory Council.

The latest Advisory Council was created in May, when the Governor signed LD 1419, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Working Group.

The Council's purpose is to aid in the long-term governance, management and oversight of the Waterway and bring stability, peace and prestige to its management.

The members are: Don Nicoll, public member; Anthony Hourihan, of Irving, representing private landowners whose property abuts the river; Don Hudson, of Chenwonki Foundation, representing wilderness recreation; Dick Walthers, of Trout Unlimited, who represents fisheries and wildlife conservation; Don Cyr of the Musee culturel du Mont-Carmel, representing cultural and historic preservation interests; and Janet McMahon, an ecologist with experience in natural resources planning. The seventh member, representing the National Park Service, has not yet been named.

Officers & Directors

If you have a question and need answers, please call one of your Board of Directors or Officers.

- Chairman – Don Dudley, Patten, 446-6170
- President – Rick Hill, Mt. Chase, 528-2183
- Vice President, Executive Director – John Rust – Hampden, 207-337-5858
- Treasurer – Bob Parker; ProPlan Coordinator – Wilton, 778-4077
- Secretary – Bert Goodman; Raffle Committee Chair – Patten, 528-2320
- Tom Aasbo – Oxbow, 435-6140
- Jeff Bellmore; Banquet Committee Chair – Warren, 273-3818
- Wayne Bosowicz – Sebec, 564-3404
- Mike Carver; Show Committee Chair – Bingham, 672-5551
- Doug Denico – Fairfield, 453-2963 ext. 113
- Hank Goodman – Patten, 528-2320
- Paul Laney – Grand Lake Stream, 796-5068
- Matt Libby – Ashland, 435-8274
- Steve Norris – Princeton, 557-7463
- Dave Tobey – Grand Lake Stream, 796-2684

Membership Questions?

Got a question about your membership, dues, or website directory listing? Contact Bob Parker:

Bob Parker
778-4077
Email: info@maineguides.org

...or write to the Association:

Maine Professional Guides Association
PO Box 336
Augusta, ME 04332-0336

MPGA Launches the Maine Guides Education Fund

For over one hundred years, Maine guides have been stewards of wildlife and natural resources, and advocates of outdoor recreation traditions. But now those resources and traditions are seriously endangered.

The Maine Guides Education Fund was created in response to concerns about the future of Maine's outdoor heritage and traditions, and the effect of diminishing public access to our natural resources resulting from recent trends in land and wildlife management policies.

Mission

The Maine Guides Education Fund's mission is to educate and advocate regarding outdoor recreation, public access, land conservation, land use policy, fish and wildlife management, and the sustainable use of natural resources, and to participate with Maine's industry, land owners, land managers, agricultural interests, State and Federal government, sporting and conservation groups to ensure the future of Maine's outdoor recreation heritage traditions including hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing and snowmobiling.

Current Status

This Fund will help MPGA raise the large sums needed to achieve that mission, and to grow into a full time operation.

There are still many things to be done in order to fully implement this plan. Much will be completed during this summer. But it greatly depends on the resources we have to work with.

The Fund is incorporated, and has applied to the IRS for designation as a 501(c)3 non profit charity. Therefore *all donations are tax deductible*. Individuals, corporations and foundations have already begun donating.

Kick-Off Challenges

The Grand Lake Stream Guides Association helped to launch this effort by donating \$1,000 at MPGA's Annual Banquet in April. The Grand Lake area is a bastion of guiding tradition, and this group immediately grasped the importance of what MPGA is striving to do, and without hesitation came forth with our first donation.

More donations have arrived this summer, with \$2,325 received in July. Individual donations have ranged from \$25 to \$1,000.

Free Subscription to the Northwoods Sporting Journal

The first one hundred members who donate \$100 or more to the campaign will receive a free subscription to the Northwoods Sporting Journal.

This bonus, worth \$22.95, is given by the Journal's Publishers, V. Paul Reynolds and Vic Morin. They recognize the significance of this new fight to preserve our traditions, and offer this huge incentive for other members to make donations.

Your Donation is Vital

Your donation is needed right now. These funds will get the ball rolling and will keep guides in the game. Please give what you can, and don't wait.

If we can keep getting out our messages about recreation, land use, and wildlife policies, we might not have to face more gates and doors shutting us out!

Please use the form below, and send what you can. All donations help, but remember; only the first 100 who give at least \$100 will receive a free donation to the North Woods Sporting Journal!

The first 100 donors of \$100 or more will receive a Free Subscription to the Northwoods Sporting Journal worth \$22.95, thanks to V. Paul Reynolds & Vic Morin

Please Accept my Donation to the "Maine Guides Education Fund"

Donation (Please Check):

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 \$5,000 Other \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Name on Subscription: _____

Your Mail Address: _____

Subscription Mail Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please Mail this form and your check (payable to "Maine Guides Education Fund") to:

Maine Professional Guides Association, PO Box 336, Augusta, ME 04332-0336

Hot News

- MPGA Adds Executive Director
- Win a Marlin 45/70
- Plum Creek's Plan
- Positive Relations Critical for Guides
- Obsolete Game Registration System
- Who Needs a Guide's License
- September Stripers

Visit: www.MaineGuides.org

MPGA Contributor Scorecard

Special thanks to the following for their generous early leadership donations made since our Annual meeting.

\$10,000 Plus:

National Shooting Sports Foundation

\$1000 to \$9,999:

Grand Lake Stream Guides Association *
Joanne Chianos, PA

\$500 to \$999:

Tom Aasbo, Oxbow Lodge *
Wayne Bosowicz, Foggy Mountain Guide Service *
Bert Goodman, North Country Lodge *
Hank Goodman, North Country Lodge *
John Rust (In kind) *

\$100 to \$499:

Dale Merrill, VT *
Joe Nimmer, SC *
Joyce Robinson, "Wiggie would have wanted to give" *
(Wiggie will be missed at our Annual Banquets)

Others:

Waldron Upham, AK *

(* donations to the "Maine Guides Education Fund")

MPGA Meeting Schedule

September 23rd – Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM (open to all members). Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor.

October 21st – Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM (open to all members). Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor.

December 2nd – General Membership meeting, 9:00 AM (open to all members). "Super Raffle Drawings" Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor.

January 6th - Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM (open to all members). Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor.

February 24th – Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM (open to all members). Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor.

Be a Winner!

**Win a Special MPGA
Commemorative Marlin 45/70
"Guides Model" Rifle**

Find out how on Page 24