

# Professional Guide



The Official Newsletter of the Maine Professional Guides Association

December 2006 • P.O. Box 336 • Augusta, Maine 04332 • email: [info@maineguides.org](mailto:info@maineguides.org)

## President's Message

Rick Hill, President

### Access – Our Biggest Challenge

Hardly a day goes by now that I don't get some kind of issue crossing on my desk that affects our traditions and businesses.

The anti-hunting crowd continues trying to stop hunting. And if that weren't enough, there is now a new foe in the making - One every bit as dangerous and potentially every bit as harmful if not more.

That foe is the "Anti-Access" faction, which is now gaining a strong foothold on our Maine landscape – even within our own State government.

### Land for Maine's Future Board Considers Taxpayer Funding for Appalachian Mountain Club

On December 4th in Augusta, the Land for Maine's Future Board's Easement Committee heard concerns from guides, snowmobile clubs, and camp owners about the Board's intent to pay almost \$6 million dollars in state and federal taxpayer dollars to the Appalachian Mountain Club – dollars that will assist the AMC in their Katahdin Ironworks land acquisition and in the construction of sporting camps, resorts, hiking trails and elimination of existing snowmobile corridors.

Last spring's Katahdin Lake controversy was about a

“mere” 6,000 acres. This time it is about a 37,000 acre track of land with 10,000 of those acres designated as an ecological preserve.

MPGA testified aggressively in opposition to using taxpayer dollars for what amounts to subsidizing a private organization – one who can well afford to fund their own projects, as well.

Despite hearing strong objections from MPGA, the Maine Snowmobile Association, and other Moosehead and Katahdin area organizations, the LMF Easement Committee voted unanimously to give this money to the AMC – and to allow the AMC to block most of the public from accessing the lands we are paying for!

### Sportsmen's Tax Dollars Used to Ban Hunting & Public Access

The easement agreement document states that "hunting, fishing, trapping and public access are GUARANTEED on land acquired with bond proceeds, except to the extent of applicable state, local or federal laws or regulations."

It fails to mention, however, that the AMC may, and does, restrict access to foot-power only. There will be no motorized access for hunting, fishing or even wildlife watching purposes.

In fact, one of our founding members who has hunted on those lands for many years was informed that he could no longer bait hunt on AMC lands, and was then asked to leave. Others were also evicted.

### We are Losing Land at a Rapid Rate!

If you agree that subsidizing an organization's private kingdom with taxpayer dollars is the wrong use of public funds, then a letter to the LMF Board would be in order.

Written comments will be accepted until January 12. The LMF Board meets on January 16, and will then make the final decision on giving money to the AMC. Send comments to: Tim Glidden, LMF Director, Maine State Planning Office, 184 State St., 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04330; Phone: 287-1487; Fax: 287-8059; Email: "Tim.Glidden@maine.gov".

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#### MPGA Officers

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

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## New Landowners

Maine's big woods have traditionally been owned by large commercial landowners solely interested in harvesting wood.

These landowners have graciously and willingly allowed recreational access to their lands and have supported traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, camping and snowmobiling.

Our long established woodland tracts are now being fragmented and sold to landowner interests who do not share our traditional philosophies.

We have watched from the sidelines and have seen the disruptions in our lives caused by these new landowners. One can't help but wonder where it is all going to end?

## Maine's Outdoor Heritage

Maine is perceived as the last great stronghold for the outdoorsman and sportsman in the northeast.

For generations we have enjoyed freedoms unlike those found in other countries and even other regions of the USA - the freedom to go onto land of others and pursue our outdoor interests.

This has brought us great personal enjoyment. It has supported a huge segment of our State's economy and sustains our Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

## New Land Use Policies

It is no secret that the wood products industry is facing perhaps the biggest challenge of their existence. They have to make some hard choices.

In many cases large land tracts are being sold and taken out of economic forestry production. This is not only going on in Maine, but all over the country. Be sure to read the December/January issue of Outdoor Life and you will realize that we in Maine are not alone.

Depending on the buyer, that means:

- NO Wood Harvesting
- NO Hunting
- NO Motorized Access

The list of NO's is ever increasing. This is land posting on a grand scale!

## State Government

In addition, some in State government seem to be buying into the idea that the consumptive user of renewable resources has become socially unacceptable, and that the new wave of acceptable economic supporters is the non-consumptive users and adventure seekers.

## NEWS FLASH

The non-consumptive user does not spend the dollars needed to sustain our economic base as we now know it! And if this philosophy continues, the infrastructure we now enjoy will collapse.

## So...What are we doing about it?

### MPGA Co-Sponsors New Coalition

First, MPGA is taking steps to strengthen relationships with our friends in other outdoor Associations.

We have recently joined in creating the Natural Resources Network Coalition whose goal is to strengthen the industries and activities that depend on the natural resources of our state, and increase awareness of just how vital these are to rural areas and to Maine's economy.

On December 4th there was a gathering of natural resource industry groups at the State House to introduce the Natural Resource Network to the public and to show legislators the importance of our industries.

Our strength is in our combined numbers!

### MPGA Expansion Plans

Secondly, we have made plans for additional representation at meetings where discussions and decisions might threaten our traditional activities and access to lands upon which we carry them out.

Our input has been ignored for too long. We need to take an aggressive approach to these threats.

And finally, we are taking an active and aggressive role in working with state agencies to preserve our traditional activities and to sustain our fish and game resources for all users to enjoy into the next several generations.

Our 2007 legislative agenda will be designed with these in mind.

### You Can and Must Help!

These are big goals! Can we accomplish them? YES! But only with your support.

Financial support is absolutely necessary. We face very wealthy and well financed opponents. A volunteer organization can only do so much.

**These changes are not coming in the future,  
They are already here!**

We as an organization and as individual guides must fight to save that which we hold so dear, or our hunting, fishing and outdoor heritage will be taken from us.

MPGA has reached a new plateau. We must, and will, rise to the challenge!

**Visit: [www.MaineGuides.org](http://www.MaineGuides.org)**

## What's Up?

What is MPGA doing for guides? Here are a few of the places where MPGA is working for you:

- Maine State Legislature – Work sessions and hearings on bills affecting guiding, land resources, wildlife and fisheries.
- IF&W – Rule making hearings affecting guides and wildlife.
- IF&W – Quarterly meetings with the Commissioner and staff.
- IF&W – Guides Examination and Standards Board. Guides Complaint Board.
- S/FLA – Sportsmen and Forest Landowners working together to resolve issues and foster stronger working relationships.
- LURC – Commission meetings developing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).
- LMF – Board meetings to approve Lands for Maine's Future Grants.
- Department of Conservation – Working groups and hearings on Public Lands Management plans and policies; and Allagash Wilderness Waterway Management Plans.
- DECD – Economic development meetings for developing Pine Tree Recreation Zones for guides.
- Tourism – Maine Tourism Commission meetings, including nature based tourism development.
- Natural Resource Network – meeting with our partners including the Maine Forest Products Council, Small Woodlot Owners of Maine, Maine Farm Bureau, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, Maine Snowmobile Association, Maine Trappers Association, and Maine Bowhunters Association.
- GrowSmart Maine – Land conservation and public access working group.

## New Newsletter Format

As you can see, our newsletter is taking on a new and more efficient appearance. This is part of the Board's plan to get vital news and information out to you much faster than was possible with the fancier magazine. Rapid news is now very vital, considering the rapidly changing issues and threats we are now facing.

We also plan an Annual version of our colorful Professional Guide Magazine that will cover past issues and their outcomes, as well as future issues of concern. It will be designed to host advertisers and other articles of interest. We will gladly accept membership stories and articles that may be of interest in this edition.

These plans will keep you better informed, and will save funds so we will be better able to stay involved and on top of major issues and threats to Guiding.

## Annual Fundraising Super Raffle

A new Super Raffle Committee was established at our October Directors' meeting. The Committee has laid out some new and exciting plans for our 2007 fundraising efforts. These new plans will be presented at our Annual Meeting & Banquet in April. Be sure to attend as this will open up a whole new opportunity and incentive to participate in its success.

The challenges on the horizon for Guides grow ever more intense. Your financial support is vital for MPGA to be a successful voice for guides, and to be involved in protecting what happens to our way of life and the way we make our living.

## Officers & Directors

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

### Officers

- Rick Hill, President - Mt. Chase, 528-2183
- John Rust, Vice President; AWW Co-chair - Hampden, 207-337-5858
- Bob Parker, Treasurer; ProPlan Coordinator - Wilton, 778-4077
- Bert Goodman, Secretary; Raffle Committee Chair - Patten, 528-2320

### Directors

- 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. 13
- Don Dudley, Chairman of the Board - Patten, 446-6170
- Hank Goodman - Patten, 528-2320
- Don Helstrom, Legislative Committee Chair - Medway, 746-5860
- Matt Libby, AWW Co-chair - Ashland, 435-8274
- Steve Norris - Princeton, 557-7463
- Dave Tobey - Grand Lake Stream, 796-2684

## Membership Questions?

Contact Bob Parker at 778-4077, send Email to [info@maineguides.org](mailto:info@maineguides.org), or write the Association.

## MPGA Meetings

**January 7<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM, at the Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor (open to all members).

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 AM, at the Holiday Inn on Odlin Road, Bangor (open to all members).

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Board of Directors meeting, Augusta Civic Center (Sportsman Show), 2:00 PM (open to all members). Ask at our booth for the meeting room location.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** – **Annual Meeting & Banquet**, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. 5:00 PM Happy Hour. Send Reservations by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Some tickets will be available at the door. For info contact Jeff Bellmore at 273-3818. Don't miss out!

## Show Schedule

**March 16<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>** – Sportsman Show, UMO Field House, Orono.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup>** – Sportsman Show, Wilton.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> thru April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Sportsman Show, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta.

## Super Raffle Winners

Once again the MPGA Super Raffle has been a big success. This annual event is a significant part of our fundraising efforts. Without these funds, MPGA can't afford the fight to protect our guiding activities, and the sporting traditions in which we participate.

The winners of the **TEN BIG** 2006 Super Raffle Drawings are:

- #1 - Freshwater Fishing: Al Cowperthwaite, ME
- #2 - Bear Hunt over bait: Dean Touw, NJ
- #3 - Saltwater Fishing: Terry Johnson, IL
- #4 - Whitetail Deer Hunt: Jim Klobetanz, FL
- #5 - Canoeing Adventure: Cliff Libby, CT
- #6 - Bobcat Hunt over hounds: Gary Cole, OH
- #7 - Vacation Package: Gary Ritzman, PA
- #8 - Bear Hunt over hounds: Severino Aliperti, NY
- #9 - Upland Game Hunt: Lee Colon, PA
- #10 - Bonus Ontario Fishing: Arthur Brandt, PA

Special thanks to all the guides who sold tickets. Look for information in the next newsletter on how to get tickets for the 2007 Super Raffle. Your help is vital!

**Visit: [www.MaineGuides.org](http://www.MaineGuides.org)**

**Maine Professional Guides Association**  
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