



MAINE WILDERNESS GUIDE



Maine Wilderness Guides Organization Newsletter

FALL 2009



WHISPERWOOD LODGE

By Shannon LeRoy

Nice fish! That was my first thought when I looked at Whisperwood Lodge and Cottages' website. This classic Maine sporting camp is nestled in the woods on Salmon Lake in the Belgrade Lake Area. High school sweethearts Doug and Candee McCafferty have been the nucleus of Whisperwood Lodge and Cottages for the past ten years. Their kind and welcoming manner makes them a perfect couple to operate a sporting camp.

Doug grew-up in the town of Mattawamkeag (very Maine) and was always active in the outdoors, including

Registered Maine Guides
deliver!



Scouting where he obtained the Eagle Scout Award. Candee grew up in a Sporting Camp as her father owned and operated Buckhorn Camps located on middle Jo-Mary Lake in the Millinocket Area. Prior to owning Whisperwood Doug worked in the paper industry for 28 years and Candee worked as a Recreation Director in the Millinocket.

Whisperwood is located at the southern end of Salmon Lake, a glacial body of water. At the north end of the lake, a channel allows easy access to McGrath Pond. Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond are famous for large and small mouth

bass fishing. Catch, photograph and release have been a strict conservation policy at Whisperwood for many years. This, coupled with the lack of fishing pressure, an abundance of structure, a healthy food chain and a highly successful annual spawn, provides all the ingredients needed for a quality fishery.

Besides the primary species of smallmouth and largemouth bass, one can catch brown trout, Brook Trout, white perch, yellow perch and pickerel as well. Spin fishing, fly-fishing, and trolling are all allowed on these waters.

Consider spending a day or even a few days with one of their knowledgeable *Registered Maine Guides* and let a guide show you the way. Your outdoors adventure will be a great experience spent with a professional guide. A guide's focus is maintaining a high standard of safety, along with a relaxing atmosphere and enjoyable outdoors experience. Their knowledge brings to you the best of what our area can give. Choose from a variety of guided activities like fishing, canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting and moose watching. To get the guided trip of your choice, it is recommended that you make advanced reservations before you arrive.

Whisperwood Lodge and Cottages consists of eleven spacious lakeside cabins nestled on a hillside sloping down to Salmon Lake. Each cabin is clean and full of charm and has separate living rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms with hot and cold running water, showers, automatic heat, refrigerator and all bedding and linens are provided. Some cabins have a wood burning stove. Under the Regular Season American Plan housekeeping is provided daily.

Most units have screened porches as well. An extra plus is the move into the twenty first century with free internet access now available for your computer.

With the American Plan guests can skip cooking on their vacation and eat in the dining hall. The folks at Whisperwood pride themselves on using the highest quality food, serving three expertly prepared home cooked meals a day. Vegetarian requests are easily accommodated. You don't have to be a guest to enjoy a meal as the dining hall is open to the public for dinners and breakfast. Reservations required.

Activities at Whisperwood Lodge start with, of course, fishing. Canoes, Kayaks and row boats are available to registered guests for free. Motor boat rentals are available, or bring

your own. There is no launch fee and gasoline is available at the marina. Rental fees for motor boats start at \$45 per day.

If you are not up for fishing there is a variety of other activities you can pursue.

A person can grab the paddle boat and go out to the swim dock for a cool dip. Challenge you neighbor to a game of horseshoes. On a rainy day head to the Recreation Hall for some billiards and table tennis or play a card or board game with the family.

If hiking is your thing there are a number of hiking trails in the area for those of you who enjoy a peaceful walk on a country trail. Then there are those who cannot live with out their golf. Luckily there are two beautiful 18-hole golf courses within a 10-minute drive of camp.

For those shutterbugs this is an ideal place for wildlife photography. There are moose,

loons, osprey, eagles, herons and other water birds and their chicks to photograph. The peaceful and wooded landscape around the camp makes the perfect back drop for your pictures.

For those who love to shop, and you know who you are, Freeport, home of LL Bean and many other outlet stores is near by. And this area is also a great place to wander through the many antique shops. It might surprise you to know that there is even a hint of culture as Maine's own Lakewood Theater is close by. It is one of the oldest continually running Summer Theaters in the country and is worth a visit for a special night out. Finally this is a great place to just sit back on your screened-in porch and read a book.

Whisperwood is open from May to the end September each year. For more information check out their web site at www.whisperwoodlodge.com or give Doug or Candee a call at 207.465.3983. It is worth the trip.



The Camp "fleet" is always available.



Owners Candee and Doug McCafferty



Shannon LeRoy is a MWGO board member, Programs Manager for Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Wilderness Lodges, a Registered Maine Guide, avid birder and certified Tracker. In her spare time she heads up the Moosehead Area Birding Club and works on the Committee for the 100-Wilderness Sled Dog Race. She also loves kayaking, photography, cross country skiing and bird hunting.

Tim Smith of Jack Mountain Bushcraft

By Bonnie Pooley

Tim Smith's business, Jack Mountain Bushcraft, offers spring, summer, and fall trips from his base located on the banks of the Aroostook River in Masardis, Maine. Although Tim offers a wide variety of trips, his greatest love is running semester courses and longer total immersion courses for college students. In these courses he teaches all of the bushcraft skills needed for survival in the wilderness. These skills, practiced daily, become an integral part of each student's life in the wild. Summed up in a single word, Tim's educational philosophy is "Can."

As an educator with a B.A. degree from Union College and a Master of Education degree from North Texas State University, Tim strongly believes in the power of the wilderness as teacher. He thinks that his own role as a teacher is "to create situations where learning can take place." The testimonials on his website www.jackmtn.com describe the many life-changing experiences which young people have had in nature's classroom. As one student wrote, "The necessities that I had come to take for granted, warmth for example, were things I had to generate for myself. I have become both more confident and more humble."

Tim believes that "knowledge is power," whether in the outdoors or any other setting. He goes on to say that "knowledge is constructed, not received. It is built incrementally over time." When a person sees a film or hears a lecture about traditional skills, such as pack basket construction or canoe poling, he may grasp the concept, but only by actually doing it will he become a master of the skill. In Tim's programs, "you're an active part of the natural world, not an observer." Students use friction sticks for fire, build their own shelters, and construct the paddles for their canoes.

When asked why he became a Master Maine Guide, Tim has two answers. First, he loves being able to make a living in the outdoors, or, as he puts it, "kicking around in the Maine woods." Second, he says that the "Real World" is not

necessarily the world of skyscrapers, pavement, and three-piece suits, as others may define it, but instead the world of trees, mountains, lakes, and streams. By taking people into this more natural, better balanced world, Tim can impel them toward moments of real growth and broader perspective.

They can then return to their daily lives in "civilization" where their new insights can remind them of what is truly important in life.

Tim has a clear sense of the heritage of Maine Guides, their reputation for over a century as embodiments of the pinnacle of skill as woodsmen and women. In the coming years, Tim hopes to contribute to the continued strengthening of the reputation of Maine Guides. The skilled woodsmen and women in our Maine forests have been among the best trained, most experienced in the country, and Tim wants to see national recognition for the title and skills of the Maine Guide.

A man of many and diverse talents, Tim represents the best qualities of the new generation of Maine Guides. Not only is he a Master Maine Guide, a licensed hunter, trapper, and fisherman, but he is also a naturalist, an excellent photographer, a media consultant, writer, and teacher. If you want to share some armchair adventures

and philosophy, spend an evening watching Tim's numerous short films on YouTube. Just google Jack Mountain Bushcraft, sit back, and enjoy.



Tim knows how to eat well in the field using Genair's latest.



Bonnie Pooley, MWGO member and Maine Guide, is newly retired after 38 years as an English teacher. Following ten years of leading summer trips for *Outward Bound*, she now runs, in partnership with Mac Davis, a small guiding business called *Maine Explorations*. She has also been a member of the *Mahoosuc Land Trust* board for 20 years, presently serving as secretary.

Members and Friends,

I hope that you all had a product summer guiding season. We have been hearing reports from our members that interest is up in guided trips, a positive sign for us all.

This past week I had the opportunity to guide a group of Legislators who are members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, for four days on the Allagash. Also joining the trip was Eliza Townsend, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and newly appointed Waterway Supervisor Matt Laroche. We paddled from Umsaskis to Michaud Farm; we experienced a bit of rain, some headwinds and two of September's most spectacular days. The water was low but the conversation was thought provoking and the waterway did not disappoint. Moose showed up as expected, eagles flew overhead daily and we landed some brook trout and caught and released a wood turtle.

The Allagash has been the topic of much discussion and disagreement over the past few years. As we traveled along I couldn't help but think about my first trip on the Waterway almost 30 years ago. In those days guides went about their business and never thought much about the influence their voices could lend to policy discussion.

Today it is vital that we remain engaged with the goings on in Augusta. The Maine Wilderness Guides Organization is your voice in Maine's capital and we want to hear about your concerns. We have developed strong working relationships with State Agencies and individual Legislators and we need to make sure that we continue to share our thoughts when public comment is invited.

Guiding today is a fine balance of time in the woods and on waters, while at the same time working hard to insure that the outdoor experiences and wildlands that we rely on are available for the future.

Greg Shute Co-president

Membership Drive

In the five years MWGO has been in existence our membership has been around 200 pretty consistently, approximately 80% of which are guides, camp owners and outfitters. We have however not done a membership drive since our beginning.

In June we began a membership drive that we plan to continue through June of 2010. However, our best source of new members is from current members. To that end we are asking all of our membership to try and recruit one new member in the upcoming year. We'll be happy to send brochures to anyone who needs them or even easier, just email us at info@mwgo.org with their name and address (email, phone number), use the subject line "potential member". We'll get a membership packet in the mail to them ASAP. Remember they don't have to be a guide to join, any conservation minded outdoorsman/woman can join as a "friend" of WMGO.

We're actively working to broaden the types of guides we serve, especially

salt and fresh water fishing, sea kayaking and hunting. This also means diversifying our board so that all categories of guides are represented. If you or someone you know specializes in any of the above activities and may be interested in serving on the board, please contact Kevin Slater.

Guide Reconnaissance

IF&W

MWGO Advisory Board Member Gil Gilpatrick serves on the Maine Guide Advisory Board and the Exam Board. MWGO Board Member Kevin Slater serves on the Guides Exam board. Contact them if you have any questions regarding the Guides Licensing process.

Guide Exam Process Under Revision

In August the Exam Board began the process of proposed changes in the content of the guides exam. The content has not been changed in 7 or 8 years and exam board members felt there was a need to revise the process. Major

changes are being worked on for the oral part of the exam to better assess a candidates judgment and decision making in a number of situations. Also under consideration is a requirement for current first aid certification for guide license renewals and some type of limited background checks. Currently on a new or renewal application you are asked if you have ever been convicted of a felony. If an applicant checks yes there is no systematic follow-up. It would only take one pedophile to get a guides license and then do something disgusting to give all Maine Guides a black eye.

Legislation

There were a few very bad bills under consideration that would have had significant negative impacts on guides. Fortunately we were able to defeat these bills thanks in part to having two board members at the public hearings and by submitting written testimony against them as an organization of concerned guides.

L.D 1368 – An Act to Broaden the Sales Tax. This bill would have placed a 5% service tax on all guided activities. Just what we don't need during a recession.

L.D. 626 – An Act to Increase Participation in Funding IF&W. This bill would have required a We Care license for all non-motorized paddle craft on inland waters. Anyone 16 or over in a canoe or kayak would have needed the \$19.00 We Care license. This would have applied to all of our clients. While MWGO is supportive of trying to find ways to support IF&W, this was not the way. Next time lawmakers & administrators from IF&W should form a working group of outfitters, guides and camp owners to come up with a plan for this particular group of outdoor recreation to help fund IF&W's activities.

Two important and positive fishing related bills passed in the spring.

L.D. 655 – Directs the Dept of IF&W to

conduct a study of fisheries management and making plans in the states that are major destinations to the angling public. This is to be followed up by recommendations to help expand Maine's recreation fishing economy

L.D. 699 – Is a resolve that establishes principles and goals for the Dept. of IF&W fisheries management. This bill had widespread support from conservation and sportsman's groups

Co-President Kevin Slater contracted for special projects

In April the MWGO BoD contracted Kevin Slater to work on the following projects through October. (1) Attend and report on relevant meetings, i.e., Allagash Advisory Council, Dept. of Conservation SCORP planning meetings, and LURC sessions as appropriate. (2) Plan and initiate a renewal and new membership drive. (3) Create a new web site that emphasizes marketing our members services. (4) Produce Summer/

Fall newsletter to update members on MWGO activities. (5) Plan and organize the fall annual meeting, dinner and auction. (6) Begin the process of securing a 501(c)3 legal status to better position MWGO to receive funding from foundations and individual donors. (7) Explore the feasibility of merging with Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors (MASKGI). (9) Expand members Pro-discount opportunities with select retailers and manufacturers

As of October 15th, significant progress has been made regarding the newsletter, redesigned website, pro-plan discussions with Cabela's and the annual meeting/banquette/auction. The other projects are on going and we'll have an update for you in the winter/spring newsletter. In the meantime don't hesitate to call Kevin at 207-824-3783 or email him at: info@mahosuc.com about anything MWGO is working on or if you think there is something we should be involved with.

Unbelievable!

The downloaded pictures are of a man who works for the US Forest Service in Alaska and the bear he had to kill (in self defense). He was out deer hunting last week when a large grizzly bear charged him from about 50 yards away. The guy emptied his 7mm Magnum semi-automatic rifle into the bear and it dropped a few feet from him. The big bear was still alive so he reloaded and shot it several times in the head. The bear was just over one thousand six hundred pounds. It stood 12' 6" high at the shoulder, 14' to the top of his head. It's the largest grizzly bear ever recorded in the world. Of course, the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Commission did not let him keep it as a trophy, but the bear will be stuffed and mounted, and placed on display at the Anchorage airport to remind tourists of the risks involved when in the wild. Based on the contents of the bears stomach, the Fish and Wildlife Commission established the bear had killed at least two humans in the past 72 hours including a missing hiker. The US Forest



Service, backtracking from where the bear had originated, found the hiker's 38-caliber pistol emptied. Not far from the pistol were the remains of the hiker. The other body has not been found. Although the hiker fired six shots and managed to hit the grizzly with four shots (the Service ultimately found four 38 caliber slugs along with twelve 7mm slugs inside the bear's dead body), it only wounded the bear and probably angered it immensely. The bear killed the hiker an estimated two days prior to the bear's own death by the gun of the Forest Service worker. Think about this: If you are an average size man, you would be level with the bear's navel when he stood upright. The bear would look you in the eye when it walked on all fours! To give additional perspective, consider that this particular bear, standing on its hind legs, could walk up to an average single story house and look over the roof, or walk up to a two story house and look in the bedroom windows.

The Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has completed initial public hearings on the draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). Board member Greg Shute served on the CLUP working committee to provide input about MWGO's members interests and priorities for the draft CLUP. We feel it is a good plan that helps protect the four principle values LURC is charged to protect and maintain. Those that would like to see more development and road building in the Maine Woods are opposed to this plan and will be attempting to weaken it. LURC will be under a lot of pressure to accommodate more development interests. This plan will decide where development can be located for the next 10 years.

Selected Highlights of LURC's Draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) Dated Sept. 2, 2009

The draft CLUP is more than 300 pages long with many important and significant provisions designed to provide Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission with the guidance and tools needed to protect Maine's unorganized territories. Listed below are a few important provisions from the draft plan.

VISION

The Commission's jurisdiction will retain its unique principal values and will exemplify a sustainable pattern of land uses. (p. 1-2)

FOUR PRINCIPAL VALUES

The economic value of the jurisdiction derived from working forests and farmlands, to include fiber and food production, primarily on private lands. This value is based primarily on maintenance of the forest resource and the economic health of the forest products industry.

Diverse and abundant recreational opportunities, including many types of motorized and non-motorized activities. Unique opportunities exist for recreational activities which require or are significantly enhanced by large stretches of undeveloped land, ranging from primitive pursuits in certain locations to extensive motorized trail networks.

Diverse, abundant and unique high-value natural resources and features, including lakes, rivers and other water resources, fish and wildlife resources, plants and natural communities, scenic and cultural resources, coastal islands, mountain areas and other geologic resources.

Natural character, which includes the uniqueness of a vast forested area that is largely undeveloped and remote from population centers. Remoteness and the relative absence of development in large areas of the jurisdiction are perhaps the most distinctive of the jurisdiction's principal values, due mainly to their increasing rarity in the Eastern United States.

A SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF LAND USES

Retaining extensive forests, undeveloped shorelines, remote woodland character,

and a unique collection of natural and cultural resources and values.

Providing for a continuation of traditional ways of life, rural communities, sustainable economic opportunities and outdoor recreation for the people of Maine and its visitors.

Supporting development in places where the principal values of the jurisdiction are least impacted and in areas identified by the Commission as most appropriate for development.

Encouraging long term conservation in places where the principal values of the jurisdiction are most vulnerable to degradation and in areas identified by the Commission as least appropriate for development.

BACKGROUND

Development can adversely affect important resources and values if it is not appropriately located. (p. 4-1)

The number of large land sales in the first half of the 2000s exceeded the number of land sales in the entire previous decade. (p. 4-10)

The new landowners have different objectives; rather than using the land to provide a steady flow of wood to the mills, new owners are looking to the land to provide income. (p. 4-10)

The number of parcels has grown significantly: the number of townships with fewer than 10 parcels declined by 25%; the number of township with more than 100 parcels increased more than 150%. (p. 4-11)

Development in the jurisdiction has grown 66% since 1970. (p. 4-14) Many seasonal camps have been converted to year-round homes and 69% of the houses in the jurisdiction are now four season homes. (p. 4-15)

Development is spreading out across the jurisdiction: Approximately 50% of the new houses are not located near service centers. (p. 4-15)

Two thirds of the new development was not reviewed by LURC for the appropriateness of its location due to exemptions in the law. (p. 4-18)

The Commission's rules are currently not specific enough to ensure that the negative impacts of hillside and ridgeline development are minimized. (p. 4-43)

POLICIES

Direct most development to areas near service centers and maintain other areas for traditional uses, including forest management. (p. 4-35)

Protect the values of the jurisdiction that draw residents and visitors to a unique array of recreational experiences, paying particular attention to high value natural resources and remoteness, where they exist. (p. 1-11)

Encourage diverse, non-intensive, and non-exclusive use of recreational resources and protect primitive recreational activities in certain locations. (p., 1-11)

Regulate land use activities to protect habitat, ecosystems, food sources and other life requisites for wildlife species to maintain biodiversity in the jurisdiction. (p. 1-11)

IMPLEMENTATION.

The Commission will: Identify areas in the jurisdiction that are least appropriate for development. (p. 7-2)

Address the effects of exemptions to the Commission's process for directing development. (p. 7-2)

Review the uses allowed (including houses) in the general management zone (which covers approximately 80% of the area.) (p. 7-2)

Address issues associated with using private roads to access development. (p. 7-3)
Adopt new standards to limit the adverse impacts of hillside and ridgeline development. (p. 7-3)

MWGO LIFE MEMBER PROFILE



Bo practices his version of “catch and release,” known as “catch, squeeze and release,” while standing in one of Maine’s secret hatchery pools. *

Bo Norris

By Greg Shute

Bo Norris has spent years wandering about the North Maine Woods in pursuit of fresh powder, challenging trails and wild brook trout. Not surprisingly he has developed an abiding affection for those special places offering adventure, solitude and silence. In the course of his wanderings Bo has come to know many of the men and women behind the Maine Wilderness Guides Organization. “This group of guides has a unique ethic about them. They intuitively sense the fragility of the North Maine Woods and not only chose to walk lightly through it but also to share this approach with those who journey with them.”

It’s one thing to have a passion for something but it’s another to actually translate this passion into action and this is why Bo supports the Maine Wilderness Guides Organization as a Life Member. “These folks understand the importance of protecting and stewarding the special lands and waters they’re bringing people to, and upon which their livelihoods depend, and work tirelessly on a wide range of issues. Too often the loudest and least productive conversations about the North Woods happen on the extremes but this organization is about balance and reason and I like that a lot.” Bo believes the Maine Wilderness Guides Organization is a critically important voice; he’s looking forward to staying abreast of their work in the years ahead and to continuing his support of the organization.

(*) Editors Note: Bo assures us that no harm came to this “6 lb.” Landlocked Salmon during release. We think one of his statements is true!

MWGO Mission

Providing a unified voice for Maine's professional wilderness guides as they work to sustain a historic way of life and conserve and protect remote woods and waters for future generations.

Member Benefits

- Professional Development Workshops: First Aid, Wilderness Survival, Winter & River Guide Training.
- Group insurance for individual guides and guiding businesses.
- MWGO Website providing advocacy bulletins, trainings, and marketing opportunities.
- Newsletter updates on wilderness issues, educational opportunities, guides network.
- Organization patch and decal.
- Annual MWGO meeting and banquet.
- Pro-deals on outdoor equipment. (*Registered guides, sporting camp owners and outfitters only.*)

We currently have arrangements with Old Town Canoe and Kayak, Eureka Tents, Cascade Designs, Mountain Safety Research (MSR), Duluth Pack and Jane Baron's Alder Stream Canvas. Discounts range from 5% to 45% depending on the company. In most instances we are limited to one order per year placed by March 1st. Please contact Greg Shute, gshute@chewonki regarding guidelines for orders.

BOAT SAFETY FOR WOMEN

One morning a husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with Mountain Island Lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book.

Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?" "Reading a book," she replies, (thinking . . . "Isn't that obvious?")

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"For reading a book," she replies inquisitively.

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her again.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading."

"Yes, but as I stated before, you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman. "But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am," and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.

10/09 NL



Membership Form



Cut out and send in envelope with check made out to Maine Wilderness Guides Organization to:

**MWGO Membership • P.O. Box 1149
Bethel, Me 04217**

Membership Categories

- This is a new membership
- This is a renewal membership

- Friend of MWGO (Annual) \$35
- Friend of MWGO (Life) \$250
(Supporter of MWGO mission and goals.)

- Registered Maine Guide (Annual) \$50
- Registered Maine Guide (Life) \$500

Check Guiding Classifications held: Master Hunting
 Rafting Fishing Recreation Other _____
Guiding Specialities: Hiking/Camping Canoeing
 Rafting Kayaking Fishing Hunting Nordic
 Skiing Dog Sledding Winter Camping

Registered Maine Guides Number: _____

- Sporting Camp Owner or Outfitter \$150
(Annual membership for businesses using MWGO Guides.)
- Fishing Hunting Family Recreation
- Canoe/Raft/Kayak Winter/Mushing/Nordic

- Corporate Sponsor (Annual) \$200
- Corporate Sponsor (Life) \$2,000
(Supporter of MWGO mission and goals.)

Member Name _____

Guide License Number _____

Business Name _____

Street Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____