

SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE OF MAINE

NEWS



Official Publication of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine

Summer 2026

www.samofmaine.org

"I Wanted to Serve My Country"

by Ginny Hurley Thompson

On July 4, 2026 America will celebrate 250 years of independence and democracy. The colonists took up arms, willing to pay the ultimate price, that we may live in freedom. Fundamental to our way of life is the right to bear arms, our second amendment. Vincent Pestilli's lifelong career has been devoted to preparing America's Special Forces in foreign weapons familiarization prior to deployment around the world defending democracy. In presenting this story, the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine pays tribute to Pestilli's commitment to his work, and to our country's founding principles of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, upheld by our right to bear arms.

I have just spent an afternoon in the Pestilli's "Game Room." What an understatement! To call this a "Game Room" doesn't do justice to the space I am standing in with my host, Vincent Pestilli of Brownfield, Maine. Vin signed up with SAM in 1975, and taught hunter safety for 25 years. A life-long hunter, his game room is an entire wing; two floors of trophy mounts and photographs, documents and artifacts spanning decades of hunting, military service and professional career. Scores of big game mounts line the walls. Full mounts stand in the corners and along each side. A bull moose dominates a high wall surrounded by big-antlered sitka, blacktail, and whitetail bucks, plus elk. I spot two more moose, three black bears, turkeys, pheasants and a big lake trout Vin caught near the Arctic Circle. A buffalo stares down from across the room to a 12-foot alligator suspended above the stairwell.

Descending to the lower level, I notice a familiar poster which I've seen at SAM's office; Minutemen's Muskets Changed the World. This historical article was written by Master Sergeant Vincent A. Pestilli, as requested by The Boston Globe for their July 4, 1976 bicentennial edition. A few steps down and I am face to face with a full double mount of a snarling mountain lion attacking a whitetail buck. Bagging that big cat took a jeep, snowmobile and snowshoes. We move into the library where hundreds of books line shelves, the collection of a

lifetime, the subject of which has been the bedrock of Vin's life work: firearms! Finally, I pause in front of Vin's Army uniform, crisply pressed with colorful insignia, displayed on a stand. Silently yet powerfully, it presents a statement: determination, dedication, discipline.

"It's Important to Know your Enemy's Weapons"

As I interviewed Vin on a February afternoon, he shared the experiences of his 41 years, 1 month, and 27 days in military service. We pored over photo albums and documents from his archives while he told me about his life's work: keeping combat troops and domestic law enforcement safer through weapons familiarization classes. I learned Vin had a working reference collection of foreign weapons he had procured for his training programs. I wanted to understand exactly why and how his training process worked to keep troops safer. Vin explained it in depth, as I frantically scribbled notes. Hours flew by. Linda, his wife of many years, joined us in the game room, brought us refreshments. It was a cold, gray winter day, and the warmest light in the room was Linda's presence. Then Vin made a statement that really made things click; "It's important to know your enemy's weapons." And Vin had the enemy's weapons.

In 1960 Vincent A. Pestilli, from Quincy, Mass., joined the US Army, graduating from Nike Ajax Missile School, at Ft. Bliss Air Defense School, El Paso, TX



MSG Vincent A. Pestilli, USA (RET), a 50-year SAM member, with a military career spanning 41+ years, prepared US Special Forces and law enforcement in foreign weapons systems they may encounter in performance of their duties.

with a MOS in Air Defense as a Launcher Crewman. He worked on underground missile bases during the Cold War in the Boston area. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1967. Because of his interest in small arms weapons, he re-enlisted in 1968 in the Army Reserves as Infantry MOS. He served in 26th Infantry Div., Boston, Mass. in Military Intelligence until 1969. After the TET Offensive in 1968, the Army had re-organized all Army Reserve National Guard Units into the Strategic Reserve Forces, SRF, preparing to mobilize in Vietnam. During this time as Infantry Platoon SGT in 2/181 Inf. Mech. 26th ID Combat Support, he was seriously injured in an

accident and spent three months recuperating. The Army offered him a discharge. But for Vin, a discharge was not an option. He kept his uniform, choosing reassignment in the Army Reserve National Guard. "I had an interest in guns and I wanted to do something for my country." Vincent Pestilli found his calling to serve his country when he started teaching weapons familiarization courses in the Army Reserve. In the early 1970's, units prior to deployment attended his 11 Bravo training classes specializing in WARSAW Pact guns which they would soon be encountering.

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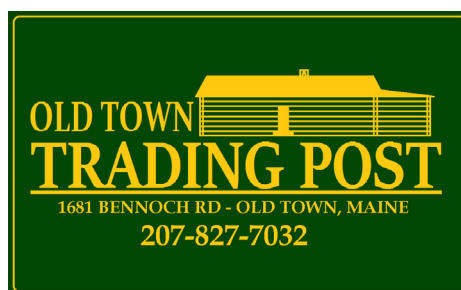
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The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) is a non-profit corporation founded in 1975 to promote conservation of Maine's wildlife resources and to be an advocate for hunters, anglers, trappers and gun owners throughout the state.

SAM News is a publication of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. It is published 4 times per year.

All editorial and advertising inquiries should be directed to the address or email listed above.

DISCLAIMER The articles and columns printed in the SAM News reflect the opinions of the writers, not SAM, unless specifically stated.

THE FOUNDERS OF S.A.M.

In the fall of 1975, CBS News ran a one hour TV show entitled, "The Guns of Autumn". It was an openly blatant attack on hunting traditions and guns in general. Ed Armstrong of Hampden watched that show and was incensed by its content. The next morning Ed called Bud Leavitt, sports editor of the *Bangor Daily News* and told him that Maine needed a statewide active organization to protect hunting and gun owners' rights. Bud gave him the telephone number of "Doc" Garcelon, an Augusta dentist who was then on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association (NRA). Ed called Doc, and they met the following week with the following individuals who, over the course of several months, formed the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. The rest is history!

Ed Armstrong - Hampden
Maynard Connors - Franklin
Oscar Cronk - Wiscasset
"Doc" Garcelon - Augusta
"Mac" Herrick - Blue Hill
Tieche Shelton - Augusta
Harry Vanderweide - Augusta



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Executive Director's Report

by David Trahan



The Weatherbee family land donated to SAM includes portions of Nicatous and Passadumkeag Streams in T3 ND Twp east of Burlington, ME.

On May 15, 2026, Robbins Lumber Company, a longtime friend and supporter of SAM, experienced an epic tragedy. A sawdust silo exploded, killing 27-year-old firefighter Andrew Cross and injuring over a dozen others, including members of the Robbins family. On June 14, Searsmont Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Woodbury (76) of Belmont became the second firefighter to succumb to injuries sustained in the Robbins mill fire. Many remain hospitalized and in serious condition. We pray for all those affected and wish them the best.

NOTICE

Due to the increasing costs of mailings, donation receipt letters will be emailed unless members request a copy to be mailed. Call 207-623-4589 or Email member@samofmaine.org to request a copy of your receipt by mail or to update your email address.

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For me personally and professionally, I cannot emphasize how special this family and business is to the Searsmont area, the people who work there, and those who know the individuals involved. For over 40 years, I worked in the woods and sold pine logs to the mill, as did my father-in-law, Ronnie Nash, for decades before me. During those years, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Jim Robbins, now retired. He is an old school outdoorsman, teaching his kids and grandkids to hunt and fish. The outdoors is in their blood, they teach their own to be responsible, honest and exceptionally kind. When you visit our Augusta offices, conference center, and our outdoor education center, the Robbins family generosity is all around you. Nearly every board in our outbuildings, pole barn, and film studio were donated by the Robbins family.

The donations do not tell the whole story. Jim Robbins, a dedicated volunteer for the Boy Scouts, uses our facility each year to teach the next generation of leaders. His son Alden, hurt in the fire, as well as Jim Jr., are close friends with SAM President Michael Parker. Jim Sr. once stayed overnight in our small, restored barn on the education center with past Senate President Michael Thibodeau, so they could be close to the scouts camping on the land. He and his family have deep roots in the outdoors, hunting deer and turkeys, a source of pride for the elder Jim Robbins. They exemplify Maine tradition and their business is more like family than a business. We pray for their family and for healing for all those who were hurt by this tragic fire. We hope you come home soon.

Land Donation has Promise

Two years ago, the Weatherbee family donated a small parcel of land at the confluence of the Nicatous and Pas-

sadumkeag Streams, in T3 ND east of Burlington, ME, to the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine. The land is high up on a ridge overlooking both streams. Multiple buildings and two smaller ones are scattered across the site. Three of them used to be suitable for overnight stays but have fallen into disrepair. We have started cleaning out the buildings and making improvements on the land. The site is locally known as Indian Crossing, it possesses significant tribal history, and was once a busy location for hunters, fishermen and canoeists.

The land is one of a kind, the woods road into the site winds through old growth woods on a razor's edge atop a hogback (esker). The land splits a river and gradually drops into one of the largest wetlands in Maine. Weighing the cost vs. benefit of a project like this, the site is one of a kind and has immense potential. It is unique and merits restoration. We envision a canoe trail with duck hunting, fishing, moose hunting, camping, and youth educational programs on the land and water.

I am still preparing estimates of materials and labor costs to restore the site and preliminary numbers look like at least \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Thanks to two very generous SAM members, we have a starting budget of \$5,000 to begin work.

Thank you to the Weatherbee family, volunteers, Daniel Bell, Tenley Schofield, Brent St. Claire, and SAM employees Jamie Hallee and Kim Moulton for help with the work. Also, to Peter Pelletier, Gardiner Land Company forester for all his help.

Anyone interested in helping with donations to rebuild can call me personally at (207) 623-4589 or e-mail me at david@samofmaine.org. Updates on progress and needs will be forthcoming.

"I Wanted to Serve"

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Vin's students were Special Forces Green Beret Teams & Law Enforcement organizations worldwide. He developed highly effective courses including H&K NATO Weapons Familiarization Course, and Foreign Weapons Training (FWT) programs. FWT is a vital combat survival skill. It can mean the difference between life and death on the battlefield. Put yourself in the shoes of a soldier: Your company is engaged in ground combat. You are taking enemy fire. Smoke is thick, artillery noise roars. Your comrades are somewhere near you, but you can't really see them. Your weapon, which was fine moments before, suddenly jams. Nothing you do fixes it. Ahead in the dirt is a fallen soldier, not ours, but theirs. A weapon lies by his side. The next moment, you act. You belly down in the dirt, retrieve the weapon, shoulder it, fire it. And it saves you. Or a different scenario might be your American company is fighting alongside a NATO unit from a different country. Our troops and NATO allies were trained in various NATO small arms weapons. However different models all used the same caliber per NATO specifications to facilitate ammo interchangeability. If you found yourself without your weapon, or out of ammo, but you're familiar with the weapon your allies use you can procure a weapon, or ammo, to arm yourself, and mobilize. Pestilli's classes could be from 3 days to a month of training, depending on the situation. Hands-on disassemble, reassemble, load/unload and live fire range practice. Upon graduation soldiers receive a military certificate documenting the training, which becomes part of their military record.

Foreign Weapons Training is proven to be critically essential preparation to Special Forces and Green Beret units deployed around the world. It is also provided for MASH and Security units that are deployed overseas who can also take this training. FWT is also a critical survival skill in law enforcement. In 1970 concurrent with his military career, he founded Vincent A. Pestilli & Associates, a firearms manufacturer representative, with a focus on firearms in the law enforcement industry. Vin's 11 BRAVO Training Co. was incorporated into the business to train US Military Special Forces and civilian law enforcement. The unique aspect of his courses was the personal working reference gun collection Vin had built for use in the classes. He provided meticulous one-on-one attention to students.

Pestilli & Associates had a federal firearms license and Class III Machine Gun License and was able to purchase



MSG Pestilli (center) at the range during live fire training to 1BCT/101st Airborne Div, 5/15/2012, Ft. Campbell, KY. foreign weapons familiarization.

guns and ammo for his FWT training programs. Because of his extensive knowledge of small arms weapons, Vin was an editor with Shooters Bible from 1976-1994. Alumni of his courses include 10th, 11th, 19th, and 20th Special Forces Groups. US Navy Seal Team 2, 101st Airborne, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, the Canadian Special Forces, Petawawa, Ontario, the Canadian Navy HMCS Charlotteon, Halifax, NS., as well as groups from several foreign NATO Nations. Vin also trained members from Maine, NH, MA, CT, NJ and the PA State Police. During the Gulf War, MSG. Pestilli trained the 972 MP.Co., 1058 Trans. Co. and many smaller units prior to their deployment to Saudi Arabia. Vin's 11 Bravo Training Co. conducted a Foreign Weapons course for the Maine National Guard, 1st B.N. 126th Aviation Regt. On May 5th and 6th, 2007, in Bangor, Maine before they deployed to Afghanistan.

Worldwide Relationships & Further Education in Europe and USA

In the early 90's, Vin had opportunity to meet an elite group of arms designers; Mikhail Kalashnikov, (designer of the AK47) Uzi Gal, (Uzi 9mm submachine gun) and Eugene Stoner (AR15 rifle) at SHOT, the Shooting & Hunt Outdoors Trade Show in Dallas. These and other experts known worldwide became business associates. Canadian sailors sought Vin's training during a pistol competition Vin also attended at Camp Curtis Guild, Reading, MA. The Canadian sailors served as border patrol on HMCS Charlotteon. The sailors had received new H&K submachine guns for conducting drug apprehension on coastal waters, but weren't trained to use them. Vin organized a training on-the-spot, taking time to prepare them for

encounters on the high seas. From our ally Argentina, the 45th Army Infantry arrived at Ft. Drum, New York in 2001, for training. The soldiers were all spanish-speaking. A translator was present, bridging the language gap and ensuring all soldiers understood the technical and range firing instruction on the AK47 and H&K MP5 submachine gun.

With his military position coupled with a federally licensed business, Vin had many opportunities to advance his knowledge and skill. He was dedicated to learning as much as possible so that he could offer the best training possible. He attended classes in Advanced H&K Submachine Gun Training at H&K in Chantilly, VA, 1984, Russian Foreign Weapons Course at FMIG Foreign Military Intelligence Group at the US Army Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, in 1988, the NRA Submachine Gun Training at Law Enforcement Police Academy in NJ, in 1989, US Army Counter Terrorism Training School at Ft. Meade, Maryland, in 1992, 9MM Pistol at H&K Law Enforcement Academy, VA, in 1993, Sig Sauer Rifle and Handgun Course in Tyson's Corner, VA, 1993, Sako Manufacturing Sporting Arms Rifle Training In Riihimaki, Finland, 1986, Valmet Manufacturing Co. Russian Military Weapons Course AK47 Systems in Jyvaskla, Finland, 1986, Browning Fabrique National Military Weapons Training in Herstal Belgium, 1982, Steyr-Daimler-Puch Sniper Rifle & Handgun Training at Steyr Austria, 1982, Llama Gabilondo Handgun Course in Victoria Spain, in 1975, Luigi Franchi Company Shotgun Training in Brescia Italy in 1974, Benelli Shotgun Training in Urbino Italy from 1998-2012. In 1987 Vin received the SAIROC Small Arms Bronze US Army Weapons Teaching Certificate. Vin attended weapons training classes

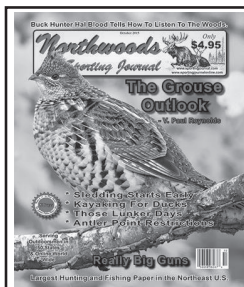
H&K Oberndorf, Germany yearly from 1983 through 1999. During these training classes, Vin was able to purchase new weapons to add to his personal collection, which students used in his FWT classes.

Pestilli also worked for Northeastern University, Boston, MA, ROTC, Rensselaer Poly Tech, Troy, NY, SUNY College, Albany, NY and Siena College in Loudenville, NY, Department of Military Science & ROTC Training. He started shooting competitively in the 1970's through the 1990's and held the position of Marksmanship Program Coordinator of the Mass. Army National Guard. Vin was the NCOIC of the SARTS (Small Arms Readiness Training unit), Office of the Adjutant General.

In 2002 Master Sergeant Vincent A. Pestilli retired after serving in the US Army, active and reserve for 41 years 1 month and 27 days. But he didn't slow down. He became a US Army Foreign Weapons Government Contractor and continued his training classes for another 21 years until 2023. As an active member of the Boston Chapter 54 of US Army Special Forces Association, a worldwide brotherhood, Vin and Linda host annual "Fun Shoots" at the guest pavilion on their 1,500-acre estate in Brownfield, Maine. Regular hunting rifles and shotguns and some foreign semi-automatic weapons are used for the Fun Shoots each year. For over 25 years Vincent A. Pestilli & Associates has donated a \$1,000 Benelli shotgun each year to SAM for their raffles, totaling over \$25,000. There were donations to Operation Game Thief for over 25 years of Benelli shotguns totaling \$25,000. On behalf of Green Berets Chapter 54, Pestilli's donations of H&K pistols and Benelli shotguns totaled more than \$200,000 over the last ten years for college scholarships and to help disabled veterans. (information from the Green Beret Special Forces Magazine, The Drop, Ft. Bragg, N.C.)

After Vin's final class of Foreign Weapons Training in 2023, there were concerns from the Mass. Army National Guard the FWT program was in jeopardy; there was no one else in the world with his level of knowledge and teaching credentials and with a working arsenal of foreign weapons to continue the unparalleled level of training that his programs offered.

"This was my life's work, what I wanted to do. And I'm proud to do it for my country. My parents arrived at Ellis Island with nothing, on a ship from Celano, Italy just before WWII, to escape Mussolini and Adolph Hitler. They settled in Quincy, Mass. My work has taken me all over the world and I know America is the best country in the world. And we should never forget that."



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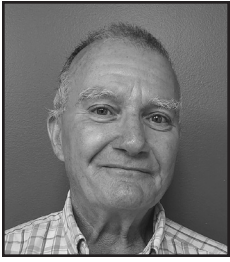


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Field Notes from the Biologist

by Gerry Lavigne

Hmmm, I Wonder Who Let the Dogs Out?

The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) has been extirpated from Maine and other north-eastern states since the late 1800s. For nearly a century, no free-ranging wolf sized (70+ lbs.) canines were known to live in Maine. It seems the St. Lawrence River and Seaway posed a physical barrier to recolonization from Quebec. Further to the west, Lake Erie and dense human populations in southwestern Quebec and southern Ontario also proved an obstacle to wolf migration.

Then late in the 20th century, individual wolves began to appear in the Northeast. In 1984, a wolf appeared in New York. Then two wolves appeared and died in Maine in 1993 and 1997. Then one in Vermont in 1998, and another in 2006. And then three more wolves appeared in New York in 2001, 2005, and 2006. After a century of absence, at least 8 wolves have been killed trying to earn a living in the upper Northeast. Have the St. Lawrence River and Lake Erie dried up? Or has dense human development in southern Quebec and Ontario reverted to fallow ground? Or are these wolves being planted in the Northeast in hopes of establishing a population?

Since the mid-1980s, wolf advocates have been pressuring various Northeastern states and the federal government to re-introduce gray wolves. In 1992, one of these wolf groups approached Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) to partner with them to introduce wolves in our north woods. Although a few of DIFW's biologists were intrigued with the idea (I was not one of them), the Commissioner wisely declined the offer. But then he said something decidedly unwise. Although DIFW opposed wolf re-introduction at this time, of course the agency would fully support protection of any wolf population that became established in Maine naturally. If that wasn't an inadvertent invitation to illegally introduce wolves into Maine, I don't know what is! A year later, a bear hunter shot a tame-acting wolf in the Greenville area. What a coincidence.

If only there were a way to tell if a wolf came from the wild or from captivity. Turns out there is such a forensic technique. In 2011, Roland Kays and Robert Feranec published a research paper in the *Northeast Naturalist* (a peer reviewed scientific journal) describing a chemical technique to distinguish between a wild or captive wolf (or coyote). The authors applied this technique to the 8 wolves which appeared in Maine, Vermont and New York between 1984 and 2008.

Do you know the saying: "You are what you eat."? Well, this applies to carnivores like wolves and coyotes. Kays and Feranec examined carbon isotopes in the hair vs. the bones of these predators to determine if they lived on wild animals and plants or commercial dog food (kibble). Corn is a major compo-

nent of kibble, and corn has a different carbon signature than all other plants in our area and in the herbivores (like moose, deer, beaver, hare, woodchucks and mice) that eat those plants. As a backup test, the authors tested wild woodland coyotes, coyotes raised from pups on kibble in captivity, and even coyotes living on pet dogs, cats, other small mammals like raccoons, and kibble pet food left outdoors in urban Massachusetts. The wildland coyotes all showed the wild plant carbon isotope, while the kibble carbon isotope predominated among captive coyotes and to a great degree among urban coyotes. One other feature. Carbon isotopes in bone tells the dietary history over the whole lifetime of the carnivore. But because canines shed their fur each year, hair samples reveal only more recent dietary history.

Here's how it all shook out among the 8 wolves they sampled. The bones of five of them, including both Maine wolf samples showed they had been reared in captivity and then somehow released into the wild. The 1997 Maine wolf also showed hair samples suggesting a diet of wild prey. This wolf was known to be in the area of Aurora for at least a year before it was trapped and killed. The 1993 wolf on the other hand, apparently

Do you know the saying: "You are what you eat."? Well, this applies to carnivores like wolves and coyotes.

Wolf Diet Based on Carbon Isotope Analysis¹

Wolf Number	Hair Sample	Bone Sample
NY 84; ME 93; NY 5; NY 8	Kibble	Kibble
ME 97	Wild	Kibble
VT 98; NY 1	Kibble	Wild
VT 6	Wild	Wild

¹ As reported by Kays and Feranec (2011)

was killed soon after it was released, based on hair samples that showed a kibble diet. In addition to the two Maine wolves, the other three wolves of captive origin include New York 1984, NY 2005, and NY 2008.

Two wolves, (Vermont 1998 and New York 2001) showed bones indicating they were of wild origin, but curiously, their hair samples revealed the kibble carbon isotope. The authors classified these two as "ambiguous". I think they were too timid to suggest that these two wolves were taken from the wild and fed kibble in captivity until they could be illegally introduced.

The final wolf (Vermont 2006) showed wild origin in bones and hair. This could be a true migrant, or it could merely indicate more rapid illegal introduction of a wild wolf. We just don't know. Mind you, none of these 8 wolves were wolf-dog crosses which were released into the wild. They were full-blooded wolves.

The finding that at least 7 of 8 wolves killed in the Northeast between 1984 and 2008 were illegally introduced here is troubling at best. None of the states involved want a free-ranging wolf population. And the Canadians do not want wolves in southern Quebec, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia, last I checked.

Yet, wolf advocates appear to be taking matters into their own hands in an effort to establish a viable wolf population against the will of the people. This "have kennel/will travel" means of reestablishing wolves into the Northeast is akin to the "bucket biologists" who have been illegally stocking fish into Maine waters. Just as the bucket biologists have

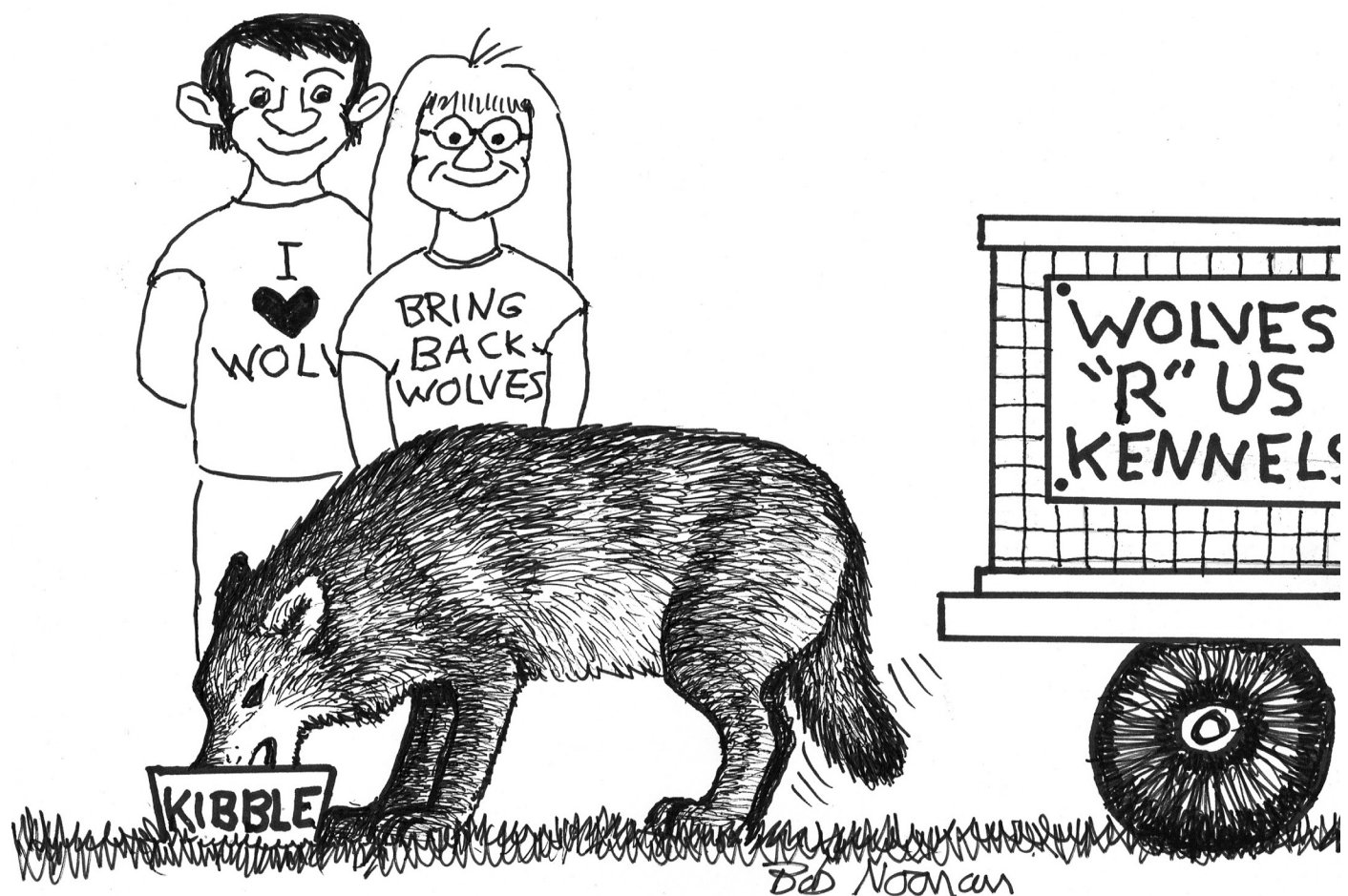
complicated and irrevocably damaged fisheries management in many Maine waters, the amateur kennel biologists could forever damage deer and moose resources in Maine and elsewhere.

Based on an assessment I conducted while serving as DIFW's deer biologist in 1998, a thriving wolf population could literally extirpate white-tailed deer north of Farmington, Greenville, and Millinocket. No other place in North America has deer and wolves coexisting in an environment which receives as much snow as we normally get in northern and western Maine. And if we get wolves, expect to have much lower moose populations and harvests too. Wolves love moose meat almost as much as they relish venison, and these behemoths have big appetites! Nor would the negative impact of wolves be restricted only to Maine. Over time, dispersing packs can be counted upon to travel the entire spine of the Appalachians from Maine to Georgia. In doing so, they will impact deer, livestock and people wherever this federally-protected species can find a foothold.

It is ironic that the hunter who shot the first wolf known in Maine in modern times during 1993 was federally-prosecuted for killing a captive wolf which was illegally released into the wild. Seems to me that the Feds should have been hunting the amateur kennel biologists who released it. And they likely didn't release only one wolf at a time, but that's a tale for another time.

Reference

Kays, R. and R.S. Feranec. 2011. Using stable isotopes to distinguish wild from captive wolves. *Northeastern Naturalist* 18:253-264.





SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE OF MAINE - INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Legislative Report

by David Trahan, SAM-ILA Executive Director

Well, the Legislature is done and we can say we had a successful legislative session. No more gun laws passed. We did have major wins in conservation policy.

LD 1343, An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Fish and Wildlife, sponsored by Senator Hickman passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor. This law reinforces what the Maine Supreme Court said about the Right to Food Amendment passed recently when the court said the right to food included harvesting wildlife. Now it is in statute and reinforced by the Legislature. SAM worked with Senator Hickman to pass this law. This is what it says.

§10050. Right to harvest fish and wildlife; limitations

1. Right to harvest fish and wildlife. Pursuant to the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25, the people of this State have the right to harvest fish and wildlife by hunting, fishing or trapping for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health or well-being.

2. Limitation. The exercise of the right to harvest fish and wildlife is expressly limited by all applicable laws, rules and regulations authorized pursuant to this Title, which the Department shall enforce.'

Thank you Senator Hickman!

Two SAM policies were passed in the Supplemental Budget. Working with our partners at the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Nature Conservancy, staff in the Governor's office and the Governor, we were able to find a long-term funding source for the Land for Maine's Future Program. Using 25% of the annual interest generated on the Rainy-Day Fund, (about 7-8 million a year), the Legislature and Maine taxpayers will no longer have to borrow money to conserve land. This change saves taxpayers interest on bonds, uses interest to create interest in the LMF Trust Fund, and requires no taxes or fees to do what once cost taxpayers millions. The land purchased must be open for traditional uses like hunting, fishing and trapping.

The second budget policy included language that allowed Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to use some of the recent \$5 increase in the fishing license to make needed repairs to state owned hatcheries. The language also allowed some of the money to be used to support a future, new hatchery. This is incredibly important because SAM and DIFW are in the end stages of finding a viable site to build a new and desperately needed hatchery.

SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE OF MAINE - INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION - "SAM-ILA"

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GENERAL PURPOSE.

The Corporation is organized and operated for the purpose of preserving Maine's Outdoor Heritage, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, and 2nd Amendment rights and will work within the meaning of 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended) or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations which are recognized as exempt from tax under such 501(c)(4).

MISSION STATEMENT:

- » To influence public policy to preserve Maine's Outdoor Heritage, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, and 2nd Amendment rights.
- » Develop and provide information on wildlife resources, field sports and conservation programs that will benefit such resources, sports and programs.
- » Educate the public concerning the American heritage of hunting, trapping and fishing.
- » Initiate and participate in litigation in the courts when necessary to protect the beneficial pursuits of hunting, trapping, fishing, and scientific wildlife management practices.
- » Promote and explain field sports, wildlife conservation and scientific wildlife management practices through literature, films, the press, television, and radio.
- » Provide organizations throughout the state with financial and management assistance to achieve these purposes.
- » Defend and protect the right of individuals to keep, use, and bear firearms.

SAM Board Announcement

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Board of Directors extends its sincere appreciation to Erik Hart for his many years of dedicated service to both the SAM and SAM-ILA Boards of Directors.

Erik joined the SAM Board in 2011 and quickly became a valued leader within the organization. Throughout his tenure, he provided insight and ideas that helped shape SAM into the organization it is today. His commitment was evident in every role he undertook, including his service as Vice President of the SAM Board.

When SAM established its legislative and political advocacy arm, SAM-ILA, in 2017, Erik was elected as one of its original board members. He went on to serve three years as President of SAM-ILA, helping guide and develop the organization that defends the issues important to those who participate in Maine's sporting traditions.

Erik's knowledge, leadership, and passion for protecting the rights and traditions of Maine's outdoor community are second to none. While his presence



Erik Hart

on the boards will be greatly missed, his contributions have left a lasting impact on both organizations.

We thank Erik for his years of service and dedication. We wish him continued success in his future endeavors and will always welcome his thoughts and advice on future issues.

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Supporting the SAM-ILA

If you are interested in donating to the SAM-ILA, please fill out the form below and mail to SAM-ILA, 205 Church Hill Road, Suite 3, Augusta, ME 04330, or make a donation online at www.samila.org

Please note that the SAM-ILA is a 501(c)4 organization and donations are NOT tax deductible as charitable donations.

Yes, I want to support the SAM-ILA!

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SAM-ILA is a 501(c)4; donations are NOT tax deductible as charitable donations for federal tax purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Institute for Legislative Action (SAM-ILA) is accepting letters of interest and resumes from any member who wishes to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD). Each Director holds a term of office for three years. The Board has quarterly meetings to conduct business. The meetings are held at SAM headquarters in Augusta.

If you wish to be considered a candidate for a future Director's position, you must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- hold valid SAM membership for the past year
- support SAM's mission
- be at least 18 years old
- willingness to participate in political process
- ability to make quarterly meetings
- participate in fundraising and other events

Please send your resume and letter of interest to:
 SAM-ILA, 205 Church Hill Road, Augusta, ME 04330
 Or email: office@samofmaine.org



SAM-ILA Endorses Senator Susan Collins

to the interests of those who care about hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation than Senator Collins.

When PFAS chemicals were discovered in Maine waters and farmlands, we called Senator Collins and asked for help funding the expansion of Maine laboratories to accelerate the removal of these dangerous chemicals from our wildlife and food supplies. She delivered.

When we learned that more than half of Maine's hatcheries exceeded their Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Protection Agency effluent discharge licenses, Senator Collins helped secure federal funding for a desperately needed new hatchery and additional funding to upgrade several existing hatcheries.

Senator Collins understands that our political discourse has devolved into an angry and, at times, dangerous free-for-all shaped by demagogues who seek to divide our state and nation. We need statesmanship, not rhetoric that deepens division. We need leaders who recognize after elections, they represent all Maine people and who conduct themselves with integrity, self-control, moral clarity, and a commitment to help bring a fractured nation back together.

*Candidate questionnaires for the U.S. House races will be distributed in the coming days, and the SAM-ILA may grade or endorse candidates in those races as well. Questionnaires for the Maine House, Maine Senate, and gubernatorial races will be distributed after the primary.

Definitions

Statesman — "The art or practice of conducting governmental affairs; political leadership characterized by wisdom, breadth of vision, and regard for the general welfare rather than partisan interest."

Demagogue — "A political leader who gains power by exploiting people's emotions, fears, and prejudices rather than using rational arguments. Demagogues often make false claims, pit groups against one another, and use charismatic rhetoric to manipulate the public for personal or political gain."

Susan Collins: Conservation & Outdoor Recreation Record

Born and raised in Aroostook County, Senator Collins has long been a strong voice for Maine's sportsmen and women and has worked to protect the recreational spaces that sustain Maine's outdoor heritage and traditions.

Senator Collins has been a longtime defender of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), our nation's most successful conservation program, and has led efforts to advance federal legislation protecting natural spaces in Maine and across the country.

As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Collins has defended Maine's national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and estuaries against proposed budget cuts. She has also used her leadership position to secure millions of dollars for conservation and outdoor recreation projects throughout Maine.

Key Legislative Victories and Ongoing Efforts

- Original cosponsor of the landmark Great American Outdoors Act, which provided permanent, full funding for the LWCF at \$900 million annually. This funding has expanded access for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation; supported working forests and ranches; protected critical lands in national parks, wildlife refuges, and national forests; and funded state and local recreation projects, from ballparks to trail systems. The law also incorporated the Restore Our Parks Act, which provided \$9.5 billion for critical repairs and maintenance at national parks, including Acadia National Park.
- Cosponsored the John D. Dingell Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which permanently reauthorized the LWCF. The law included provisions from the bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, including establishing a national "Open Until Closed" policy; dedicating 3% of LWCF funds to additional public access for sportsmen and women; authorizing funding for shooting sports facilities; reauthorizing wildlife conservation programs; and allowing permitting and leasing of public lands for shooting and target ranges.
- Cosponsored legislation enacted in 2022 that designated the York River as part of the National Park Service's Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Cosponsored the Outdoors for All Act, which expanded outdoor recreational opportunities in low-income communities and codified the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program, which funds new trails and green spaces.
- Cosponsored the America the Beautiful Act, which continues the work of the Great American Outdoors Act by reauthorizing the Legacy Restoration Fund to address maintenance backlogs in national parks and public lands.

Protecting Maine's Natural Resources Against PFAS

Senator Collins has secured millions of dollars through her leadership on the Senate Appropriations Committee to protect Mainers, wildlife, agriculture, and the environment from PFAS "forever chemicals" while helping position Maine as a national leader in PFAS research.

Clean Water and Land

Since 2021, Senator Collins has secured \$155 million for 82 drinking water and wastewater projects across Maine. Many of these infrastructure improvements have helped reduce PFAS contamination affecting water supplies, farms, wildlife, and natural resources.

Leading Research

Senator Collins secured \$18 million to establish a PFAS Center of Excellence at the USDA New England Plant, Soil, and Water Research Laboratory at the University of Maine. The center is now at the forefront of PFAS testing, public education, and outreach to communities impacted by contamination. She has also directed an additional \$23 million to support the center and its ongoing research.

For immediate release: May 20, 2026

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine is taking the extraordinary early, pre-primary step of endorsing Senator Susan Collins for reelection to the United States Senate.

The contrast between the remaining candidates in this race could not be more stark. Senator Collins understands the tremendous responsibility that comes with serving in the United States Senate. She is humble, thoughtful in researching issues, willing to engage with interested parties, and consistently carries herself with dignity.

No Senator in the U.S. Senate or member of the U.S. House of Representatives has a stronger record on conservation or a more consistent commitment

Commercial Energy Development is Coming to Northern Maine – Where is the Balance?

by David Trahan, SAM-ILA Director

In late May, I had the pleasure of taking four friends boating on the scenic and crystal clear 1,200-acre, Donnell Pond in Franklin, part of Downeast Maine. The two-hour boat trip was in the shadow of Schoodic Mountain and included watching an otter, two nesting eagles and several pairs of loons. To say it was a special place is an understatement. Special places like Donnell Pond are gems that cover most of the undeveloped eastern, western and northern Maine. Unfortunately, these special places will be forever damaged if some environmental groups have their way.

Why I write this is, the Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition, (EPC) recently released a lengthy list of legislation they want for next legislative session, which includes developing northern Maine for renewable energy. As a start, the largest wind tower project ever proposed in Maine, (the Bingham Farm is the largest at 56). The King Pine Wind project proposes 179 commercial wind towers on 175,000 acres.

Another 5,000-acre commercial solar array proposal in Hersey Maine, just north of Patten would be the largest in the United States by 600 acres, ironically, the EPC praises the unmatched beauty of this area and

the need to save the earth from global warming by developing this area while failing to mention the massive environmental destruction from projects they support.

For example, if I told you a construction company was going to flatten a 5,000-acre woodlot, bulldoze every tree, rock, stump, bush and hill. Grade it, ditch it and plow under every mouse, bobcat, coyote, bat, vole, fox, bird nest, deer yard, bear den and then cover it with steel and plastic while surrounding it with steel fencing, would you cheer? To put this into perspective, that is four times the size of Donnell Pond. So far, the only push back I have heard from environmentalists is: Oh wait. There is none.

Most of the groups advocating energy development in northern Maine are either out of state elitists, fringe outdoor groups and surprisingly, Maine Conservation Voters, Trout Unlimited and the Natural Resources Council of Maine. The goal of this group appears to be to "save our planet" by replacing New England electricity generated using fossil fuels, with wind and solar produced in one of the last remaining undeveloped areas of Maine.

To add insult to injury, every Democrat running for Governor is parroting

the same (develop northern Maine for renewables) talking points without mentioning the environmental devastation that will result.

Renewable energy is a laudable goal, but every development is a tradeoff. Sticking your head in the sand and making believe there is no harm from a 5,000-acre solar array or from 179 wind towers is both dangerous and dishonest. If you were to walk a 5,000-acre woodlot, you would walk all day. You would be surrounded by birds singing, animals scurrying for cover, you would cross brooks, jump deer, moose, turkeys and wildlife of all sorts, all while in the shade of trees.

In all energy developments there must be a balance struck between impacts and benefits. At this point it appears the SAM-ILA may be the only voice speaking up and saying, "Whoa! Hold on a minute. Let's be more thoughtful and careful about how we develop our mountains, streams and wild places."

Editor's note: Just before this issue of the SAM News went to press, we learned that the town of Hersey has rejected the proposed 5,000-acre solar installation. Likely, solar energy proponents will be casting about for another mega-site in Maine's north woods.

Thoughts from the Field

by Vincent Pestilli, US Army (Ret.)

A Message to Gun Owners: Why Our 2nd Amendment is So Important

On 9/11/2021, twenty years after 9-11, MSG Vincent Pestilli, U.S. Army Ret. wrote this message to Americans: "Why is the 2nd Amendment So Important to Our Country?"

According to the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey-the leading source of international public information about firearms, the U.S. has the best armed civilian population in the world, with an estimated 270 million total guns. That's an average of 90 firearms for every 100 residents.

In my 41 years in the US Army, as a Russian and NATO Weapons Analyst for Special Forces, I trained Infantry, Artillery, Armor and Special Forces Units. I had the opportunity to read the training manuals from China, Russia and the Warsaw Pact Nations. Their biggest fear of invading the USA was the 270 million armed civilian population. During WWII the Japanese invaded parts of Alaska. They did not invade the West Coast because they feared the mil-

lions of armed citizens.

A gun magazine writer added up the deer hunting license sales in just a handful of states and arrived at a striking conclusion: There are over 600,000 hunters in Wisconsin... allow me to restate that number: *600,000!*

Over the last several months Wisconsin's deer hunters became the 8th largest army in the world. (That's more men and women under arms than Iran. More than France and Germany combined).

These men and women, deployed to the woods of a single American state, Wisconsin, to deer hunt with firearms, and NO ONE WAS KILLED. That number pales in comparison to the 750,000 who hunted deer in the woods of Pennsylvania and Michigan's 700,000 deer hunters, ALL OF WHOM HAVE RETURNED HOME SAFELY.

Toss a quarter million deer hunters in West Virginia and it literally establishes the fact that the hunters of those four states alone would comprise the largest

During WWII the Japanese invaded parts of Alaska. They did not invade the West Coast because they feared the millions of armed citizens.

army in the world. And then add in the total number of deer hunters in the other 46 states. It's millions more.

The point? America will forever be safe from foreign invasion with that kind of home-grown firepower! *And hunters are already trained in the safety and use of firearms.*

Hunting... it's not just a way to fill the freezer. It's a matter of national security. That's why all enemies, foreign and domestic, want to see us disarmed.

Food for thought, when next we consider gun control legislation, whether

you agree with it or not... the question would still remain:

What army of 2 million would want to face 30 million, 40 million or 270 million armed citizens???

For the sake of our freedom, don't ever allow gun confiscation in the United States by our government. Please remember the American Revolutionary War was started by the shot heard around the world when the British Army marched to Concord and Lexington to confiscate the guns of the American Colonists.

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The Salty Side

by Bob Humphrey



Using heavier tackle to reduce fight time and keeping fish in the water until release can reduce post-release mortality.

Striped Bass on the Menu

Summer's here and the time is right for fishing in the seas. There should be plenty of striped bass around, if you know where to look for them. Last year they arrived a little later and moved from inshore to nearshore waters earlier, where they remained for the rest of the season. Every year is different, and efforts continue to turn the tide of recent population declines.

The Striped Bass Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met in May to discuss several topics related to rebuilding striper stocks. One of the key metrics they use to evaluate if and what type of action may be needed is a stock assessment. Unfortunately, the next benchmark stock assessment isn't scheduled until Feb/Mar of 2027. In the mean time they won't be flying blind as they have information from the last assessment as well as annual indices for spawning stock biomass and recruitment. Neither is looking particularly good right now but it is hoped that will change.

One reason for contracting the slot limit to 28-31 inches last year and retaining that limit this year is to protect a particular cohort of fish. The last really strong age class should be growing out of that slot limit, which managers hope will reduce mortality on older, breeding-age fish. Meanwhile they're still unsure what has caused low recruitment (younger fish entering the population) over the last several years, but it is speculated that this spring's colder water temperatures and increased rainfall might improve conditions on the spawning grounds.

The board is also exploring alternatives that at least superficially seem to make sense. One is striped bass aquaculture. NOAA Fisheries developed a report on the science and environmental issues as well as legal and policy issues regarding striped bass aquaculture, which was presented to the Board at its February 2026 meeting. ASMFC is reviewing the document and will be presenting feedback at their August meeting.

As for this season, things should be largely the same as last year, with one noteworthy exception. While the slot limit won't change, the means of measuring total length will, or may, depending on how you've measured it in the past. Total length is now defined as, "a straight-line measurement from the lower jaw to the tip of the tail with the tail pinched together." It's that last part about the pinched tail that's important to note.

Meanwhile, post-release mortality from catch-and-release fishing still remains the greatest source of removals in the entire fishery. Anglers are strongly encouraged to practice proper handling. While C&R anglers are obviously in it for the sport, using heavier line and tackle can reduce fight time and stress on the fish. Once caught, keep them in the water and revive them before releasing. Reducing overall fishing time can be helpful as well. Fishing for a shorter time and keeping your 1 fish daily bag is actually less harmful than fishing for a longer time and releasing all your fish.

Capt. Bob Humphrey is a member of the ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel.

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The interior provides comfortable living space with natural wood finishes and functional room layout. A sunny deck extends the living area outdoors and overlooks the property's mix of rolling and sloping terrain, open pasture, and mature landscaping. The grounds include established perennial plantings, adding seasonal color and low-maintenance appeal.

The acreage is well suited for a variety of rural uses, including small-scale farming, gardening, or livestock. A horse barn is included, offering additional utility for equestrian needs or general storage. Wildlife is plentiful for hunting.

This property presents an excellent opportunity for buyers seeking a solid log home in a private, country setting with versatile land and attractive natural surroundings.

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Maine Outdoor Traditions (and Occasional Tall Tales)

Rabbit Hunting at Home and Abroad

by Warren Winslow



The author's venerable Remington 20 Ga, Model 870 Wingmaster LW, Pump, Improved Cylinder Choke, which was his favorite cottontail rabbit gun as a youth.

The year is 2024. I have always been a shooting sports enthusiast. It started one Christmas when Santa brought me a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun. It was 1953, and I was ten years old. I built a range in the basement and probably fired thousands of shots.

My first .22 rifle was given to me when I was fourteen. It was a Winchester pump, Model 1901. It had belonged to an elderly Maine deer hunter who lived in my neighborhood. I shot it at our local gun club or at my boy scout leader's farm.

My first shotgun and hunting license were acquired when I turned fifteen. The shotgun was a bolt action 12-gauge Mossberg with a poly-choke. Hunting season in Massachusetts started on October 20th. My friends and I hunted

pheasants and rabbits after school and on Saturdays at every opportunity.

I acquired my first hunting dog, a beagle-basset cross named Ernest, when I was in my early twenties. He was a natural rabbit hunter, so chasing the elusive cottontails soon became my forte. A high-tension power line ran through town, and huge brush piles left by the power company's trimming crews provided excellent cover for our prey. A light snow dusting showed the bunnies' tracks. Ernest would circle the brush piles and often kick out and start a rabbit. The chase was on with a roar of excited barks and yelps. I would stand at the location where the chase began, as the rabbit would often run in a wide circle, returning to his point of origin. That was when I would take my shot and, with

any luck, tumble a rabbit for a stew. Two or perhaps three bagged bunnies was a good outing.

I hunted with a 20-gauge Remington Wingmaster, Model 870 pump. I used Winchester #7 1/2 shot and tried to nose or head shoot my game so the meat would later be edible. The woods and fields of Massachusetts were quite plentiful for our rabbit hunting for many years. However, encroaching residential and commercial development eventually greatly diminished our rabbit habitat. Now there are rabbits everywhere in the suburbs and relatively few in the woods and fields. The suburban bunnies have become pests to homeowners for the damage they cause to vegetable and flower gardens.

The year was 1996. My daughter married an Australian and moved Down Under. When I went to visit her, I got to go rabbit hunting with my new son-in-law. I had no idea it could be so different from the hunting I knew in Massachusetts and Maine.

Firstly, we went hunting after dark. We hunted in a dry lake bed on a sheep station [ranch] of approximately 10,000 acres. We were in Bungendore, near Canberra (Australia's capital), in the state of New South Wales. It was so dark due to no light pollution or visible moon, that you literally could not see

your hand if held out in front of your face. You couldn't locate the utility vehicle (Ute) if you walked away from it. Numerous meteorites could be counted in the pitch-dark sky. We had no dogs, but hunted from a standing position in the back of a Ute, which is an Australian version of our pickup truck, but the bed had no sides. We didn't use shotguns; we hunted with a .222 Remington Model 700 or with a Ruger 10/22 rifle.

It is not a problem to locate rabbits in Australia. There are literally billions of them. There is no bag limit as they are considered a non-indigenous pest, if not a plague. No license is needed to hunt them. Once mistakenly imported as game to hunt for sport, the rabbits multiplied exponentially as the climate and environment were perfect for their proliferation. Few natural enemies greatly compounded the problem. Rabbits have devastated untold acres of cropland and have even altered some ecosystems.

The Ute had a driver and a glasser who manned a spotlight. The shooter stood belted in the bed of the Ute behind the cab. When the shooter wanted to take a shot at a particular rabbit, he would slap the cab's roof. The driver would stop, and the shooter would fire at the rabbit in the spotlight. One could shoot as many rabbits as he might have rounds of ammunition.

After the first rabbit was killed, it would be gutted out and tied to the trailer hitch on the back of the Ute. The rabbit would be dragged on the ground wherever the Ute might travel. Since tire



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tracks were left on the dry lake bed floor, the hunters could follow their exact track back to their point of origin. Dragging the gutted rabbit might give the hunters a shot at a fox on the prowl following the scent of the rabbit. If lucky, the hunters might even get a shot at a wild boar.

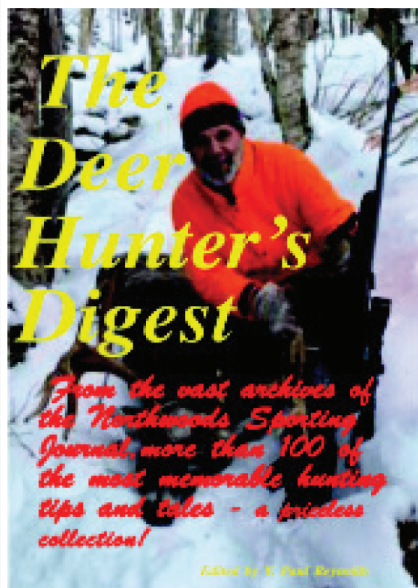
We killed 25 rabbits and 2 foxes on our hunt. We likely saw a wild boar, but it was too far away to risk a shot, for amongst the rabbits were countless sheep whose eyes in reflection could easily be mistaken for a boar.

During our adventure, we glassed three kangaroos. Our spotlight also backlit a 10-foot-high barbed wire fence, and the 'roos' were hopping

toward it. One 'roo' had a joey in its pouch. Kangaroo hunting is indigenous hunting and requires a license. I was fearful that in the darkness the animals would get caught up in the fence and cut to pieces: No way. They cleared the entire fence with more than a foot to spare.

Now, at age 82, I do most of my shooting at the trap range or on the target pistol range. Time has not been kind to rabbit hunters in New England. Rabbit hunting in Australia hasn't changed much despite hunting, trapping, poisoning, birth control, sterilization and genetic alteration.

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The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) is a 501(c) (3) organization founded in 1975 to promote conservation of Maine's wildlife resources and advocate for hunters, anglers, trappers, and gun owners. Raffle winners are responsible for any taxes and transfer fees.

Maine's High Elevation Lakes

by Matt Scott, Steve Kahl and Lloyd Irland



Tumbledown Pond located 2,550 ft. above sea level in T5R6 BKP WKR in Franklin County, one of the 90 high elevation lakes and ponds sampled for water quality in the 1986 to 1989 water quality study. Photo by Amanda Gavin.

Introduction

One might ask the question: Of what significance are high elevation waters to the people of Maine? They are difficult to access and they comprise a vanishingly small proportion of all the water in Maine. Maine is at the end of the tailpipe, so to speak, as it receives all the air movements from the west and southwest carrying atmospheric contaminants our way every day, twenty-four seven. We are positioned downwind from all major industrial development in the United States, exposed to what are called anthropogenic sources of "acid rain" and other atmospheric pollutants. Maine has four atmospheric monitoring stations that record daily the wet and dry events; some with over 50 years of records. We used the Bridgton and Greenville stations for our deposition data for the study described below (Figure 1).

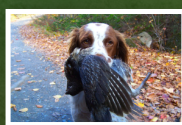
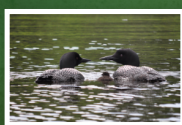
So, our thoughts were that these high elevation lakes are the "canaries in the coal mine" for atmospheric pollution in Maine's aquatic environments. Authors Steve Kahl and Matt Scott designed a project in 1985 to sample the population of Maine lakes that varied from 1 to 100 acres or more, above 1,800 feet in elevation. The study was initiated in 1986 and concluded in 1989. All 90 lakes and ponds above the stated elevation were sampled 2-5 times during this period. These waters were greater than one acre and deeper than three feet. We accessed

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Maine OGT is a program that asks the public to report known or suspected poaching violations.

Maine OGT works very closely with the Maine Warden Service, the Maine Marine Patrol, and International Wildlife Crimestoppers. Covering the entire state is a big job, so these agencies request the public to also be eyes and ears for poaching wildlife activity. Violations or suspicious activity should be reported to **1-800-ALERT-US (1-800-253-7887)**.

Poaching is a serious and costly crime. Poaching robs sportsmen and sportswomen of fish and game, robs Maine businesses and taxpayers of hunting and fishing revenues, and robs all of us of the beauty of Maine's wildlife. Also, the illegal introduction of non-native fish species in Maine has had, and will continue to have, disastrous effects on our native fisheries. Poachers also take endangered, threatened, and non-game species.

To **confidentially report** acts of poaching, call the OGT Hotline, toll-free within Maine, at 1-800-253-7887. (From out of state, call 207-287-6057.) Calls are received 24/7. It is important to

Note from Greg Sirpis, Chairman of the Maine OGT Board of Directors:

I want to thank our incredible team, the OGT family. This group of dedicated volunteers consists of Board members, Unity students, Resource Council members, and others. I also want to thank the men and women of the Maine Warden Service and the Maine Marine Patrol. With your service and dedication to duty, you are the true heroes of the Maine outdoors. If you have any questions about our mission please email me at gregsirpis@roadrunner.com

www.maineogt.org



note that **callers do not have to reveal their names or testify in court.** If a conviction results, a reward is available if previously requested. Rewards vary from \$500 to \$1,000, more in serious cases. All reward monies come from donations and fundraising. Often, a reward is not requested – most fish and wildlife enthusiasts just want the criminals caught!

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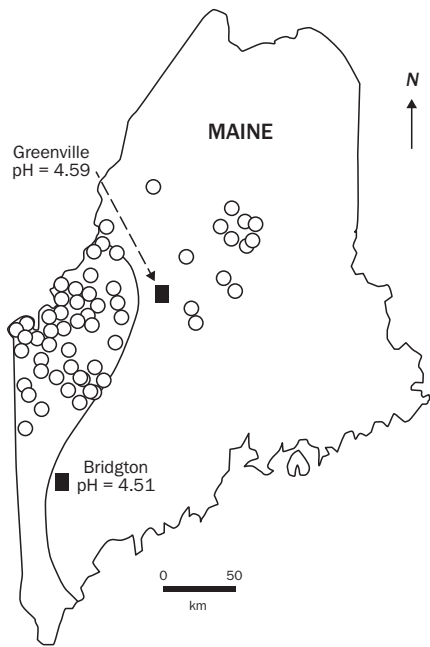


Figure 1. Location of high elevation lakes sampled for water quality in 1986, along with the atmospheric monitoring stations at Greenville and Bridgton Maine.

these lakes via helicopter with pontoon floats and some fixed-wing float planes. Sampling was conducted during the summer and fall turnover to obtain an index of base flow chemistry unaffected by spring run-off. The average pH for all lakes sampled was 5.73, as compared to our low-elevation lakes which averaged a pH of 6.9. This difference was to be expected, since waters at these elevations would be intercepting long-range transport deposition before our low elevation lakes. These high elevation lakes have a much lower capacity to neutralize acids from dry and wet fallout. Only 12 of the 90 lakes were acidic. The deposition of sulfur and nitrogen creating sulfuric and nitric acids. We established a good baseline of aquatic chemistry for the 90 lakes. The average atmospheric pH at Greenville was 4.59 and at Bridgton was 4.51. An aquatic pH of 5.0 or lower is toxic to brook trout.

Fisheries and Fishless Lakes

Forty-six of these lakes have historical fish information. Of these, eight were found to be fishless. Records provided by anglers hiking to these waters have established data on fishing via volunteer creel census. Most of these waters have designated hiking trails for access. Perhaps the best example is Tumble-down Pond. Our available data is not sufficient to determine any significant

impact from acid deposition on the eight fishless lakes. Habitat limitations in some of these isolated waters may be a greater contributing factor to their fishless status. Zooplankton biomass and diversity are lower compared to Maine's low-elevation lakes. We concluded that the differences are probably related to habitat rather than chemical intervention or interaction or perhaps fish predation. These lakes range in size from 1 acre (Pamola Pond) to 99.5 acres (Long Pond). Pamola has not been surveyed for fish since Long was in 1977, and brook trout, along with several species of minnows, were found. Many of these fishless lakes are shallow, less than three feet deep, and are probably fishless due to a total freeze at 1,800 feet.

Current Research

Scientists at a number of institutions have done further research. One is especially important, leading to a major report in January 2026. They reported on ten lakes over a wider portion of the state over ten years. They did digital data logging with modern methods that did not exist for the 1988 study. And they studied phytoplankton as well.

Currently, the Maine Appalachian Mountain Club Chapter, along with the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington, is evaluating the need for developing a policy to protect high elevation waters for the future. Steve and Matt participated in a focus group in 2025 to discuss conservation and monitoring measures. There may be several options for policy, such as easements, purchase, or legislation. All would be site-specific. Time will tell because these lakes may become vulnerable to some type of future development, say 100 years from now.

Future sampling is in order, as it has been 40 years since the baseline of reliable data on the 90 high elevation lakes was established. This time-lapse is sufficient to do a comparison study to measure any change in water chemistry.

Conclusions

Maine's high elevation lakes may not all support prized brook trout fishing, but they do provide essential habitat for zooplankton, aquatic insects, and they attract visits from hikers and naturalists. Since some of these lakes and ponds are fishless, it makes them unique and these waters deserve protection for future generations.



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Recreational Safety at DIFW

by Ron Fournier,
DIFW Recreational Safety Supervisor

Maine Celebrates 40 Years of Mandatory Hunter Education

This year (2026) marks a milestone and benchmark for Maine's hunters and the safety of hunters and the public alike. This year we celebrate the successes of ensuring that Maine's woods and waters are safe for all to enjoy by educating new hunters. Previous to 1986, hunter education existed as an elective course; it became mandatory in 1986. Through an act of the Maine Legislature in 1983, LD 199: "An Act to Require Persons Being Licensed to Hunt for the First Time to Have Completed A Gun Safety Course" was initiated and sponsored by Representative Paul Jacques of Waterville, Representative Matthews of Winslow, and Senator Ron Usher of Cumberland. The original concept was amended to go into effect as of January 1st, 1986, to allow for enough time to train volunteer instructors and prepare to serve the public statewide.

This milestone offers an opportunity to look back at how far we have come, as well as forward, to stay relevant, vigilant, and poised for the challenges that lie ahead. When you compare the period of 1976-1986, Maine averaged 3 to 4 fatalities annually and 30 to 40 non-fatal

injuries each year during hunting season. Looking further back; in the early 1950's we experienced a high of 19 hunting fatalities and 51 injuries in one calendar year. We had 171,000 licensed hunters at the time, and arguably, more land open to hunting. The hunting culture and safety aspect was not what it is today. When we look at the statistics from our most recent decade, we see a stark contrast. We have experienced only two fatalities, one in 2019 and one in 2017. Regardless of the extremely low frequency, each of these was a person - a loved one, a family member, a friend, a sibling, and in one instance a teenage child. Neither should have occurred. During this same timeframe, we also saw a very low incidence of injuries, averaging about 4 annually. This safety record is something we should celebrate, while acknowledging there is room for improvement.

Mandatory hunter orange, banning deer drives, changes in hunting activities to include more bow and crossbow hunters and other practices have been contributing factors, but mandatory hunter education made Maine's woods

safer than they ever have been. This is especially remarkable, considering that more than 230,000 licensed hunters are now afield and less land remains open to hunting these days. Over the past 5 years, we have added new education tools and delivery models to accommodate a wider range of learning styles, with the availability of online platforms, home study courses, and continuing education (Next Steps programs).

So where do we go from here? We dig in our heels and set our sights on zeroes. We must stay current, forward thinking, and vigilant, and aware of the big picture. The risk of hunting accidents will never be zero, but how we approach the mitigation of that risk is important. That includes being an active participant in

nationwide meetings, planning, statistical analysis, networking, and delivery of relevant courses. High-quality education and mentorship must remain our primary focus. Our volunteer instructors continue to be the backbone of this program and without their commitment, tireless energy, ideas, and time, this program would look very different. So, as you prepare for your next season, take a moment to think about those who have forged a safer path forward. That includes my two predecessors, Michael Sawyer, and the late Gareth Anderson, who have supported this mission. Join me in recognizing this milestone. A special thank you to the thousands of volunteers who have made significant contributions.

Recognition for Outstanding Work

Each year, I have the honor of awarding several instructors, supporters, and partnering organizations for their contributions to Maine's safety programs and conservation efforts. This year, we have several special awards which I am eager to share, but as I write this, none of them are aware they have been selected. I hope that the timing works out for me to present these awards in person at an event in June.

Hunter Education Instructor of the Year

This award is presented to an instructor who has made considerable contributions to Maine's Hunter Education program, demonstrated exemplary leadership, and served as a role model for other instructors. The award is presented jointly on behalf of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

This year's award goes to Michael Richard of Saco, ME. Mike has been an active volunteer since 1990, leading and assisting in over 120 individual classes, and certifying over 5,500 students in hunter education. He has a strong team approach and is an active member of the Scarborough Fish and Game Association. Mike is well respected within the hunting and shooting sports community and he has set the bar high with his hard work and dedication to ensuring that new hunters are well trained and educated. Thank you sir for your countless hours and years of contributions to Maine's hunter education program.

Trapper Education Instructor of the Year

This award is presented to an instructor who has made considerable contributions to Maine's Trapper Education program, demonstrated exemplary leader-

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The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) is a 501(c) (3) organization founded in 1975 to promote conservation of Maine's wildlife resources and advocate for hunters, anglers, trappers, and gun owners. SAM-ILA is a 501(c) (4) and conducts some political activity. Raffle winners are responsible for any taxes and transfer fees.

ship, and served as a role model for other instructors. Maine's trapper education program has evolved to better meet the needs of today's new trapper, and it has continued to grow to include more outreach, workshops, and more available courses. This year's Trapper Education Instructor of the Year is awarded to Maggie Morgan of Bowdoinham. Maggie has been a hunter education instructor since 2018 and she joined us to instruct trapper education in 2022. During this time, Maggie has worked her way up the ranks and has led or assisted in almost 30 classes, certifying just under 800 new trapper education students. Maggie always finds the time to be available, takes initiative to plan new courses, and puts her heart into her work. She continually works on improving lesson delivery and assures that the administrative side of things is accurate and complete. Maggie has been instrumental in the central part of the state, offering 8-10 classes in the Augusta area, mostly at the SAM Outdoor Education Center, where we see the highest demand and student counts. Thank you Maggie for your hard work and consistent planning and scheduling of trapper education opportunities to meet the needs of the public!

ATV/Snowmobile Safety Instructor of the Year

This award is presented to an instructor who has made considerable contributions to Maine's Powersports program, including ATV and Snowmobile Safety. This person demonstrates exemplary leadership and has served as a role model for other instructors. Each year when we discuss these awards and review our records for stand-out contributions and dedication to the program, we have hard decisions to make, as there are so many deserving people who make this program what it is today. When the topic of ATV/ Snowmobile Safety came up, it was unanimous that this year's candidate was also chosen last year, but with her track record and dizzying schedule of courses across a wide portion of the state, Darcey Emery is well deserving of this year's award. Darcy joined the ranks in April of 2023, and in that short amount of time, she has led over 90 individual courses in a wide range of locations. Darcey puts her heart and soul into her program and goes the extra mile to assure that her students receive a great experience. Darcey provides open and clear communications, has no hesitation about bringing up a concern or suggest an improvement, and she instills a level of safety, education, and respect for the trails and landowners with every student who attends her class. Congratulations Darcey and thank you for your tireless energy!

Special Awards

Besides our instructor awards, we want to recognize several others who have made important contributions to conservation education. This year we have two special well-deserved awards. One is a special award to recognize an individual who has recently joined our program as a volunteer instructor focusing on Trapper Education. This person began with us initially assisting with a photo shoot in the dead of winter during a blizzard to demonstrate under ice beaver trapping. With little more than a message through Facebook and a brief meeting, Joshua Dostie agreed to assist the Department with this project. This led to involvement in our Next Steps program dealing with fur handling and becoming a Trapper Education instructor. Josh assisted with multiple classes and workshops, as well

as outreach events. Once well versed in the flow of trapper education classes, Josh joined forces with Maggie and Ryan Morgan, leading classes in Augusta. During this time, Josh spent countless hours involved with the Maine Trappers Association (MTA), where he listened, learned, and contributed a great deal of his knowledge and perspective, and he was recently elected as MTA's Education Director. Josh is very active on social media, managing and contributing to several trapping oriented pages. His creative storytelling and photography have greatly benefited today's trappers and the public. For his commitment to education beyond the classroom, we award Josh Dostie the Maine Trapper Educator of the Year. In addition, Josh has recently joined us as a Recreational Safety Coordinator to further assist in connecting the public to conservation education opportunities.

Conservation Education Partner Award

Each year, we work with scores of partners across the state who share our goals of supporting conservation education and serving the public. Partners include civic organizations, schools, rod and gun clubs, non-governmental organizations, land trusts, and so on. Our work relies on strong partnerships, and each brings different opportunities or resources to the table. When we look across the landscape, we recognize that Maine has some unique partners who have made huge impacts on conservation and promotion of the outdoors. This year, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife recognizes the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) as the Conservation Education Partner of the Year for outstanding leadership and dedicated service in support of Maine Conservation Education Efforts.

What began as a vision to provide access to the outdoors in a centralized space here in Augusta has evolved into the SAM Outdoor Education Center, located just around the corner from SAM headquarters. SAM's Executive Director David Trahan saw the potential of a place like this, and he committed himself to seeing the project through, working with donors, partners, and landowners. Once the site was established, a new partnership was formed with DIFW. The SAM Outdoor Education Center took off, with year-round programs led by DIFW's Recreational Safety Division, hosting everything from angling to archery, hunter education, trapper education, and many other programs. Throughout this unique partnership, David has paid close attention to ways to improve the site, securing the means for improvements and additions to better serve the public.

This partnership has attracted attention from resource agency personnel from 12 other states, who had the pleasure of visiting SAM's Outdoor Education Center this spring for an event. Many of them see our partnership as a model that could be implemented in their state. This partnership is unique and will eventually benefit thousands and thousands of future stewards of Maine's woods and waters.

It is my great pleasure to announce the award of Conservation Education Partner of the Year to David Trahan and to all SAM members and staff who have supported his vision. The award was presented on June 14th during the Maine Outdoors Skills Day Program at the SAM Outdoor Education Center.

Yours in conservation, Ronald Fournier
ronald.fournier@maine.gov
207-441-6562

SAM Fish & Game Club Network

SAM's Fish & Game Club Network enables clubs to work with SAM on communication, partnerships, and sharing information on current events. We are proud to have these important partners and appreciate the work they do in their communities.

ATV Maine

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Arnold Trail Sportsman's Association - Sydney *Arnold Trail is a "Shotgun Only" Club, open to the public every Sunday from 10am to 1pm. Celebrating 90 years of shotgun sports! Upcoming events: July 11 - Messalonskee Blast, August 8 - Belgrade Lakes Challenge, Sept. 12 - Let's Break Them All!*

Aroostook County Conservation Association - New Sweden

Big Pine Gun Club - Guilford *For information, visit www.bigpinegunclub.org*

Boothbay Fish & Game Club - Boothbay

Bowmantown Association - Topsham

Bucks Mills Rod & Gun Club - Bucksport

Calais Rod & Gun Club - Charlotte

Capital City Rifle & Pistol Club - Augusta

Carrabassett Valley Trappers - North Anson

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Knox County Fish & Game - Hope

Lake Thompson Fish & Game, Oxford

Lisbon Fish & Game Association

Maine Trappers Association

Maine Youth Fish & Game Association

Monmouth Fish & Game Association - Monmouth

NAVHDA, Sebasticook Chapter

No. Berwick Rod & Gun - N. Berwick

Norway F&G - Norway *Contact for more information: nptg1970@gmail.com*

Penobscot County Conservation Assoc. - Brewer

Phippsburg Sportsmen's Association - Phippsburg

Pine Tree Rod and Gun Club - Westbrook

Pleasant River Fish & Game, Columbia

Presque Isle Fish & Game - Presque Isle

Rangeley Region Guides & Sportsmen's Assoc. - Rangeley

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So. Berwick Rod & Gun Club - So. Berwick

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From the Maine Forest Products Council

The Fight for Local Control in Maine's Unorganized Territory: Why the CLUP Matters Now

by Krysta West, Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council

The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) is the local planning board with zoning and development permitting authority for Maine's Unorganized Territories (UT). This area, which includes townships, some towns and plantations, spans 10.4 million acres across 13 counties and five regions (Downeast, Eastern, Moosehead, Northern, Western).

While each region has its own unique set of challenges and opportunities, all have a few things in common. They are predominantly privately owned, the rate of development is relatively flat and populations are declining. They are also heavily conserved, sparsely populated and mostly forested, making the UT an economic driver for the state and vital to the wood basket that supports our \$8.3 billion heritage forest industry.

As mandated by statute, planning and zoning decisions by the LUPC are informed by the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), a document that has been updated five times since 1974. Revising this document is an intensive five-year process. The last revision in 2010 coincided with the Plum Creek development plan, and it was highly contentious with area residents prioritizing economic development and special interest groups mobilizing non-residents to push for conservation through regulation. This conflict highlighted significant inequities for those who live, work and pay taxes in the UT and are under the authority of the LUPC.

In part due to the last CLUP, in 2011 the Legislature enacted LD 1798 to overhaul the Land Use Regulatory Commission, which became the Land Use Planning Commission. Under this new structure, one commissioner is appointed by the governor, and eight commissioners are appointed by the counties with the most acreage in the jurisdiction. All appointees must be directly connected to the UT and are confirmed by the Senate. This design was key to the new mission of the LUPC which placed an emphasis on honoring the rights and participation of residents and property owners and encouraging and facilitating regional economic vitality.

As certain interest groups saw diminishing influence, they made a concerted effort to change both the makeup and authority of LUPC in Augusta over the last few years.

First, some interest groups opposed the nomination of Tom DuBois, an accomplished engineer and UT resident. Rather than focus on his credentials for the position, the confirmation hearing instead featured a mob of lobbyists from outside of the jurisdiction speculating how he may or may not vote on a rezoning case before the Commission. Sadly, they were successful—at least initially—at derailing the county's nomination. Franklin County resubmitted Tom's nomination, and he was later unanimously confirmed.

Next, those same groups advocated for LD 870, a bill that equated to nothing short of a hostile takeover of local control established by the restructuring. As presented, the bill would have:

- Increased the size of the commission to accommodate four additional appointments made by the governor.
- Removed the requirement that the governor's appointees either reside, work or be a former resident of the commission's jurisdiction (goodbye local control).
- Removed the requirement that the appointee be familiar with the "needs and issues affecting the commission's jurisdiction" and instead replace that with "persons with technical or scientific backgrounds."
- Removed expertise in "commerce and industry" from the potential criteria that county commissioners can select for.
- Reduced the number of days counties have to fill vacancies from 90 business days to just 30 with the appointment defaulting to the Governor when that unreasonable deadline was inevitably not met.
- Established term limits for appointments, restricting the ability of counties to select candidates of their choosing given the geographic and professional limitations.

Proponents of LD 870 made the case that local communities lack the vision and expertise to plan for their future. The Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC) and our members pushed back hard with the help of Liz Caruso, the HD 72 representative from Caratunk. Ultimately, the Legislature opted to increase the size of the commission by two: one appointment by the governor for a tribal member and an "at large" appointment to be made by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House with no required connection to the UT.

Next came LD 1529. While it was marketed as a bill to promote voluntary conservation of late-successional and old growth trees, a topic for a different day, the next hostile power grab was buried in the middle of the bill in Section 5. This section would have overruled Appendix C of the 2010 CLUP, the Lakes Management Plan, by mandating in statute that the commission adopt rules to reassign an untold number of lakes within the commission's current Management Class 7 with certain characteristics and instead place them into either Management Class 1 or 6 without further analysis of the unique circumstances for each lake or pond.

Both management classes (MC) prohibit motorized access with MC 1 requiring a ¼ mile buffer restricting permanent vehicular access and MC 6 requiring a ½ mile buffer to "protect the primitive recreational experience." Wholesale reclassification without any consideration of current accessibility, as was proposed, would have had a significant financial impact on landowners' managing for forestry. It also would have had profound impacts on recreational access to Maine's vast UT.

All this disruption was based on the provably false premise of the imminent threat of development in the UT's interior where rate of new dwelling permit requests beyond one mile of a paved public road between 2010-2024 was just 0.06/township per year with 135 of the 205 interior towns (66%) receiving 0 requests during that data period. Additionally, four major UT counties are near or exceeding 50% of the land base enrolled in conservation easements with a 39% average across the UT. These easements extinguish development rights. The facts clearly don't reflect an uncontrolled situation that would warrant such a draconian response.

Despite opposition from multiple programs within DACF, the legislature advanced a watered-down version of LD 1529, and it went into law without Gov-

ernor Mills' signature. Sections 1 and 3 of this new law amend the CLUP process with Section 3 requiring the LUPC to consider whether "all lakes or a subset of lakes should be reclassified."

The group behind this push published a (fictional) storybook highlighting the 52 remote lakes and ponds they feel "could vanish within our lifetime if we don't act now." Here is what our analysis found:

- 0 are within one mile of a paved road (0.06 rate of development)
- 20 are fully conserved and cannot be developed
- 4 are partially conserved

Based on an analysis of the state ATV network, assuming the less restrictive ¼ mile buffer, ATV trails in Greenville, Jackman and Caswell are located within

¼ miles from an identified lake or pond and would no longer be allowed. If the ½ mile buffer were to be applied, additional trails would surely be impacted as well.

Our private road analysis is complex and ongoing, but we

have already identified one remote pond that would impact at least 85 miles of road, affecting multiple landowners. It is unclear whether current roads would be grandfathered, but even if they were, it is clear that vehicular access would be prohibited unless it is connected to forestry, agriculture or access to existing remote camps.

When access loss is weighed against the actual development data, the juice is clearly not worth the squeeze. There is a reason that major decisions like these are not made in a vacuum.

That brings me back to where we are today. On September 9 the LUPC will hold an information session on the Lakes Management Plan. The public will not be invited to speak at this meeting, but it is important that we all tune in so we can be prepared for the next three years of the CLUP revision process. In the meantime, please keep in touch. It is more important than ever that we all work together to protect Maine's UT and the way life should be.

As certain interest groups saw diminishing influence, they made a concerted effort to change both the makeup and authority of LUPC in Augusta over the last few years.

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President's Corner

by Mike Parker

I've been fortunate over the years to be drawn for the Maine moose hunt multiple times and to join others as a sub-permittee. Few traditions capture the spirit of Maine like moose season—the lottery drawing, the anticipation, and the camaraderie shared among hunters, families, and friends. By the time you read this, permits will have been drawn and many of our members will already be planning this fall's hunt.

Moose hunting itself has changed over the years. Gone are the days when you could simply drive logging roads and expect to spot a bull in a clear-cut. Changes in forestry practices and habitat have made hunting more challenging and have forced many hunters to sharpen their tracking and calling skills—heading deeper into the woods for an animal that is a bit more coy and wary than 20 years ago.

A few years ago, while hunting in Zone 4 with my father and son, we stopped at Baker Lake for lunch on an unusually warm November afternoon—pushing the mid 60s. Nearby, two hunters were changing into dry clothes after dropping a moose nearly a mile back through the woods and across a bog. “Not sure if it was worth it,” one of them joked while loading a canoe onto the truck. Of course, it was worth it—and he knew it.

That story captures what the Maine moose hunt should be about: hard work, tradition and memories. No doubt their story has been shared dozens of times,

at a deer camp next to the woodstove. By that point, it's probably five miles in the woods and 1,700 pounds.

The moose hunt as we know it would not exist without Maine's longstanding tradition of access to private land. Unlike the deer who love the green grass on my leach field and rarely stray, moose roam across vast tracts of privately owned timberland, and without landowner cooperation, opportunity would quickly disappear.

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine has long understood that access is not guaranteed—it must be protected. SAM has consistently supported strong landowner liability protections, defended responsible public access, and advocated for policies which preserve Maine's outdoor traditions.

Just as importantly, preserving access requires responsibility from all of us. Respecting landowners, following rules, and leaving property better than we found it are essential to keeping Maine open for future generations. Because if we lose access, we lose another unique Maine tradition.

Encourage friends and family who are not SAM members to join today—a \$25 membership fee is a great insurance against the high land lease fees hunters must pay for prime hunting grounds in other states. The more members we have, the greater influence SAM can have protecting Maine's outdoor traditions and heritage that most take for granted.

The moose hunt as we know it would not exist without Maine's longstanding tradition of access to private land.

Junior Rifle Marksmanship Programs

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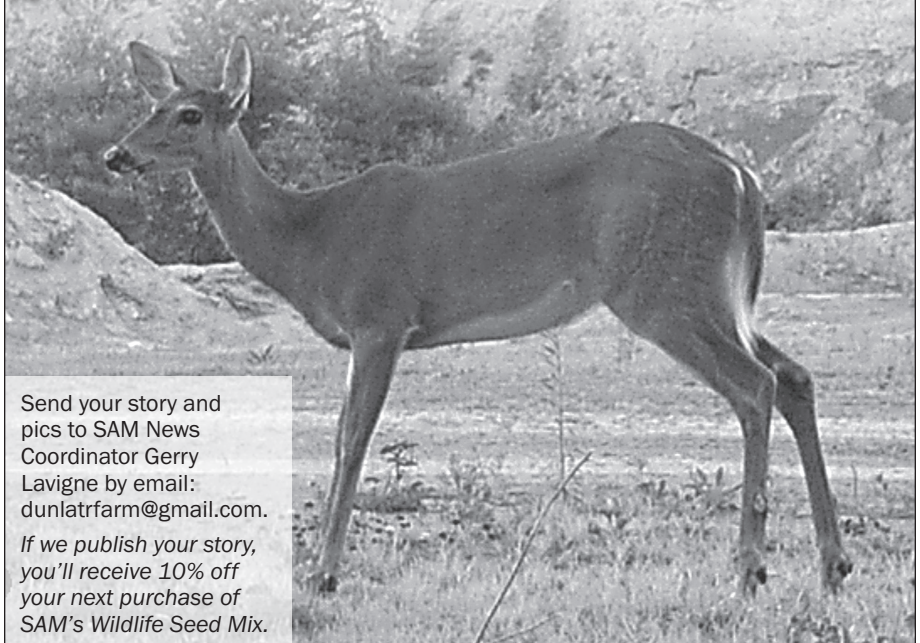
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Sam Seed Stories

Got a food plot planted with SAM's Wildlife Seed Mix? Got some cool pics of deer or other wildlife using your plot? Harvest a deer or turkey on your plot? Drop us a line and let us know how it's working out for you.



Send your story and pics to SAM News Coordinator Gerry Lavigne by email: dunlatrfarm@gmail.com.

If we publish your story, you'll receive 10% off your next purchase of SAM's Wildlife Seed Mix.

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- Adaptable to a wide array of site and soil conditions
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- Contains 5X the clover than in "conservation mixes"
- Clovers and chickory attract wildlife over most of the growing season.



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- 20% Tall Fescue (Teton 2)
- 15% Annual Ryegrass (Tetra Prime)
- 10% Medium Red Clover (Wildcat)
- 5% Kentucky Bluegrass (Ginger)
- 5% Ladino White Clover (Jumbo 2)
- 5% Forage Chickory (TFL 200)

Site Prep and Seeding

- Till or drag site to expose soil
- Stand quality is best at PH 5.5 to 7.0
- Broadcast seed at 25 lbs per acre using properly calibrated Cyclone-type seeder
- 50 lbs bag sows 2 acres; 10 lbs sows 2/5 acre (100 ft. x 170 ft.)
- Lightly cover seed by dragging, tracking, or packing. Good soil contact is essential to good germination.
- Use shredded mulch hay sparingly, if at all
- Annual mowing or bushhogging in late August or September helps maintain the stand.

SAM's Wildlife Mix is formulated by Seedway, Hall, NY

5 lbs. - \$24.24 (\$22.97 + \$1.27 tax) **10 lbs. - \$48.49** (\$45.96 + \$2.53 tax)
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SAM's Wildlife Seed is distributed and sold exclusively by The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, 205 Church Hill Rd., Augusta, ME 04330. (207) 623-4589 www.sportsmansallianceofmaine.org

Got Questions? Comments? Feedback?

Contact Gerry Lavigne, Dunlatr Farm Wild Game Smokehouse, (207) 943-2584 [www.dunlatrfarm@gmail.com](mailto:dunlatrfarm@gmail.com)

Proceeds from the sale of this seed help support SAM's Deer Management Network



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Sportsman's Alliance of Maine

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Individual Memberships

- \$25** Annual Individual/Family
- \$40** 2 Years Individual/Family
- \$60** 3 Years Individual/Family
- \$100** 5 Years Individual/Family

Senior Memberships

- \$20** Annual Senior (65+) Individual/Family
- \$35** 2 Years Senior Individual/Family
- \$50** 3 Years Senior Individual/Family

Are you a veteran?

- Yes
- Branch of Service _____
- Years of Service _____

Life Memberships

- \$500** Life Membership Individual
- \$250** Life Membership Senior
- \$600** Life Membership Family

Youth Membership

- \$10** Annual Youth Membership — under 18 years old, will receive SAM membership card, SAM News, and decal. Does not include voting rights.

Youth Member Sponsor _____
(must be a current SAM member)

Youth's Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Youth's Name _____

DOB _____

Address _____

Other Memberships

- \$25** Annual Sportsman's Club Membership — Includes 1 year membership for the organization as an entity. (Individual club members will need to purchase their own memberships.)
- \$125** Annual Business Membership — Includes 1 year SAM Membership, business listed in SAM News and on the SAM website

In addition to my membership dues, I would like to donate to:

\$ _____ SAM's General Fund — 501(c)(3)

\$ _____ SAM-ILA — 501(c)(4), not tax-deductible

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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SAM's Mission Statement

Please review SAM's Mission below and sign to acknowledge your support toward our mission and purpose:

- To develop and provide information on wildlife resources, field sports and conservation programs that will benefit such resources, sports and programs.
- To educate the public concerning the American heritage of hunting, trapping and fishing.
- To promote and explain field sports, wildlife conservation and scientific wildlife management practices through literature, films, press, television, radio and electronic means such as email and website.
- To defend and protect the right of law-abiding individuals to keep, use and bear firearms.

Signature _____

Sign here to confirm your support for SAM's mission and purpose.

(Application is incomplete and will not be processed without signature)

Return to: SAM, 205 Church Hill Road, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

Questions: 207-623-4589 or members@samofmaine.org

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OmniGraphique Designers	Oakland	207-465-9494
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Old Town Trading Post	Old Town	207-827-7032
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Longroad Energy	Portland	207-210-1175
Rockwood Bar, Grill Gas & Convenience Store	Rockwood	207-534-0204
T P Construction Inc	Rockwood	207-212-9646
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Maine Coast Heritage Trust	Topsham	207-729-7366
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Do You Have a Story to Tell?

Do you have a story and photo that would inspire others? Hunting, fishing, trapping, camping? Get it published in the SAM News!

Email your stories and pictures to SAM News Coordinator
Gerry Lavigne, dunlatrfarm@gmail.com.

Don't hesitate—Everybody's got a good story or photo!

Include your name, address, phone number, and email address if any. (Entries will be screened by the SAM staff for appropriateness for the SAM News.)

Photo submission: Photos should include people; please no shots of just landscapes or animals. Be sure to identify the people in the photo. Photos should be as large/high resolution as possible so they will reproduce clearly. The best way to send them is as jpgs attached to the email, not copied into the email.

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Sportsman's Alliance of Maine News

Youth Hunting and Fishing Gallery



1

This page sponsored by



1. A rainy day of hunting and patience led to a 20-pound turkey for Cullen Parker (10).
2. Chase Durgin's turkey: 13.6 pounds, 8.5-inch beard and 1-inch spurs.
3. Ben van Breems got this brook trout on 30 May with a Daredevil lure.
4. Carter Durgin's turkey: 21.6 pounds, 9-inch beard and 1-inch spurs.
5. Nyssaiah (14) enjoyed fishing with his dad Kevin, Bubba Marten and Uncle Nate at Shirley Pond.
6. Lucas Dostie and his dad Joshua tend their backwoods trap line.

Got Photos?

Do you have any great photos of your kids hunting and fishing in Maine's great outdoors? We'd love to share them with other SAM members. Send them to us at office@samofmaine.org.

Photo Guidelines: Photos should be as big as possible. (We can always make them smaller, but making them bigger often reduces the quality so far that they are unprintable.) Please include your child's name and age, where and when the photo was taken, and any story behind the photo. *Thank You!*



2



3



4



5



6