A Product of Turner Publishing INCORPORATED
A Maine Owned Company

Maine's largest direct mail community publication company
serving over 200,000 homes and "It's All Good News"!

FREE

MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

Direct Mailed Free Every Month to Homes in Avon, Phillips, Rangeley, Oquossoc, Eustis, the Plantations of Dallas and Sandy River

Volume 15• Issue 4
October 24, 2025 • Week 3

Turner Publishing, Inc., PO Box 214, Turner, ME 04282-0214 • 207-225-2076 •Fax: 207-225-5333 • E-Mail: articles@turnerpublishing.net • advertising@turnerpublishing.net • turnerpublishing.net/news

Thank you, Rangeley! - Andrew Shepard

Betsey and I are putting our home in Rangeley for sale, but we wanted to thank the community for your support and friendships in our five+ years here. Our connection to Rangeley actually started 44 years ago, however, when we honeymooned at the Saddleback Lake Lodge in the summer of 1981.

37 years later I began working with my friend and longtime Saddlebacker, Tom Federle, to find a way to get the mountain open again and on a path to sustainability. When Arctaris entered the picture, a partnership-of-purpose was formed with Jonathan Tower and Arctaris Impact Fund, and the next five years would be among the most meaningful of my life.

I'm proud of the work we did as a community to get the mountain open and to re-establish the Saddleback culture of kindness, competence and world-class skiing that continues to make it one of the most respected mountains in the country.

Making the effort far more manageable and meaningful was having Jimmy Quimby and Jared Emerson, two of the most competent ski ops professionals in the industry, and Bruce Lancaster, a man of many talents, at my side the entire way. Rangeley is truly blessed to have these three sons of Rangeley and their undying commitment to keeping the mountain a special place. I'm also grateful for the tireless resourcefulness of Jeannine McDonald and her ability to keep the mountain staffed with capable and caring people. I was also blessed to have Jim Ferrara take on the responsibility to rebuild and manage the Host program that has helped define Saddleback's extraordinary guest experience.

It was important to me that Saddleback was a place the entire community could be proud of. It was also critical to me that we reflect and meet the needs of the community. Jimmy and Jared were central to my understanding of what those needs were.

Reopening the mountain was about more than skiing though. The primary objective was to help reconstitute the seasonal workforce in the region that was negatively affected by the closing of the mountain. The commitment I made to the community at our first town hall at the Barn in the fall of 2019 was that we would address the challenges young workers would face to relocate to our community; affordable quality housing, access to childcare, increased access to healthcare and providing a suite of benefits to seasonal employees that was unheard of in the industry.

I'm proud that between the mountain and the community we have made inspiring progress on all fronts. Thanks to a lead gift from Susan and Fritz Onion, and the generosity of Jonathan and Arctaris, we now have state-of-the-art workforce housing. Seasonal workers at the mountain are also offered a benefits package that can travel with them as they take on various jobs throughout the year. Thanks to a committed team at Saddleback, including Ally Kaiser, that started the discussion, and for Ellen Oppenheim and her very capable

team that raised the funds and carried it across the finish line; we now have a state-of-the-art childcare center adjacent to the school this fall. I also know Rangeley Health and Wellness and Rangeley Family Medicine are both committed to continuing to navigate a very fraught and complicated healthcare environment to find new ways to expand services to the community.

Alas, the desire to play a more consistent role in the lives of our four grandkids is drawing us back to southern Maine. Making the decision to sell easier to accept is the fact that our son and daughter-in-law's A-frame at the mountain will continue to give us a Rangeley home whenever we need it. And between hiking, fishing, skiing, and dear friends, we are expecting to continue to need a lot of time in Rangeley.

Betsey and I would both like to thank everyone for the support we've felt over our five years here and wish you and the mountain Godspeed.

MAINE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Nov. 21-23 & 28-30 – Festival of Trees, Waterville Elks Banquet & Conference Center, 76 Industrial Rd., Waterville, hours on both Fridays and Saturdays are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Sunday, November 23, hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on the final day, November 30, hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission for ages 12 and over is just $2.00 per person; children 12 and under are admitted for free, children are also given a free book upon arrival.

Nov. 21 — Annual Salvation Army Toy Drive, start time 11 a.m., bring your donations to the Auburn Mall, FMI conatct Jacquie Libby DeLasso at *Jacquie123@comcast.net.*

Nov. 22 — Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Andover Elementary School, 85 Pine St., Andover, FMI: Contact Amber Cooper @207-357-2647.

Nov. 22 — 30th Annual Rangeley Congregational Church Holly Fair, 10 am until 2 pm., The Barn of the Rangeley Congregational Church, corner of High Street & Pleasant Street, Rangeley, FMI call 207-864-2250.

Nov. 27 — Annual Wobble and Gobble 5K Run/Walk Race – In-person OR Virtual, FMI: *extension.umaine.edu/bryantpond/support/wobble-gobble-5k-race,* 207-665-2068.

Nov. 27 — Turkey Trot 4 Hope 4 Mile Run and 1 Mile Walk/Run, 9 a.m., Norway Fire Station, 19 Danforth Street, Norway.

Nov. 28-30 — 14th Annual Festival of Trees, Norway Armory, 27 Elm Street, Norway.

Nov. 29 — Craft Fair, The Mechanic Falls Church of the Nazarene, 5 Oak Street, Mechanic Falls 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 29 — BAAM Art Market, Indoor location Crescent Park Elementary School, 19 Crescent Road, Bethel, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., *bethelareaartsandmusic.com*, *coodinator@bethelareaartsandmusic.com.*

Nov. 29 — Small Business Saturday, The Bethel Area, details at *bethelmaine.com*.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

WAYNE: The Wayne Community Church Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications from Wayne students and students whose families are connected to the church. For applications and eligibility information, contact the church office, 685-3505. Deadline is November 1st.

WAYNE: 30 Mile River Snowmobile Club meetings are on the first Monday of the month, meet at the Ladd Center in Wayne at 6:00 p.m., RSVP on Facebook page each month so we can have a count for pizza, salad and dessert at each meeting, sharing the cost of the pizza.

WAYNE: Tot Time at the Ladd Center is a relaxed, informal playgroup every Monday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., parents must stay with their children, and everyone is welcome, FMI call Ladd Center Director, Adam Brooks 685-4616.

SOUTH PARIS: South Paris Farmers' Market, Thursdays 2-6. p.m., 9 Market Square in the parking lot right next door to Oxford Hills Mercantile/Ollie & David's.

OQUOSSOC: Rangeley Region Skeet and Trap Association (RRS&TA) announces its 2025 shooting schedule, welcoming members and visitors to experience clay shooting sports, Wednesday: Trap and Skeet starting at 4:00 p.m., Thursday: Sporting Clays and Skeet starting at 4:00 p.m., Saturday: Five Stand and Skeet starting at 10:00 a.m., Sunday: Trap and Skeet starting at 1:00 p.m.

WAYNE: Cary Library Book Sale, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 3rd Saturday every month, Williams House, 14 Old Winthrop Road, Wayne, FMI call 685-3612 or visit our website *https://www.cary-memorial.lib.me.us.*

RUMFORD: Celebrate Recovery meetings, every Thursday and Sunday at 6:30 p.m., Larry Labonte Recovery Center, 412 Waldo St., Rumford, free, FMI contact Justin Teixeira at 207-393-7205 or Erika Teixeira at 207-418-7777.

LIVERMORE FALLS: Ernie Steward from Spruce Mountain Adult Education visit the library to help our patrons with their technology needs, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main St., Livermore Falls, sign up by calling (207) 897-3631.

FARMINGTON: Nami Farmington Family Support Group, for family and friends of people living with a mental illness, 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., Maine Health Franklin Hospital, 111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington, Contact Louise (207) 592-9933 or Kathy (207) 318-1075

AUGUSTA: AL-ANON meeting, Sunday evenings, 5 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop Street, Augusta, both in person and on Zoom (for Zoom info please refer to *maineafg.org)*

WINTHROP: Winthrop Grange Meeting summer schedule, meeting 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 601 Old Lewiston Rd., Winthrop, Supper at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m., FMI call Kathy at 207 500-9864.

FARMINGTON: Farmington chess club meets every Thursday morning at the Parks and Rec Center, 127 Middle St., Farmington, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WATERVILLE: Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market, every Thursday 2-6 p.m., Head of the Falls.

LIVERMORE FALLS: Story Time, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main St., Livermore Falls, favorite picture books, sing-a-longs, and other activities, any questions or for more information, please call the library at 897-3631.

FARMINGTON: St. Joseph Nutrition Center, corner of Quebec and Middle Street (across from St. Joseph Church) A "Blessing Box" in front of the building. More information or to help out: (207) 778-2778.

MADISON: The Madison Historical & Genealogical Society will be open for viewing the many Madison's historical displays and usage of genealogy resources every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Point Avenue School, 108 Old Point Avenue, Madison. New members and volunteers are always welcomed. Contact person Judy Mantor, president at 696-5810.

ONGOING:

GRAY: One-on-one with Community Connector, 1-3 p.m., Gray Library, 5 Hancock St., Gray, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: Coffee Hour, Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., New Gloucester Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

FARMINGTON: Farmington Grange will host a welcome and warming center on Wednesday mornings, twice a month beginning November 6, from 10 to 2 p.m., throughout the winter, will have soup and snacks, everyone is welcome, no fee. The Grange Hall is located at 124 Bridge Street, Farmington, FMI call Bonnie Clark at 778-1416.

FARMINGTON: Nine-ish- NA Meetings (In Person), 9:15-10:30 a.m., Franklin Memorial Hospital, 111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington.

Food Addicts Meetings

FREE - Food addicts in recovery meetings: Tues Zoom and phone, Thurs phone and Sun in person. *foodaddicts.org* FMI call 441-8002 or 623-1924.

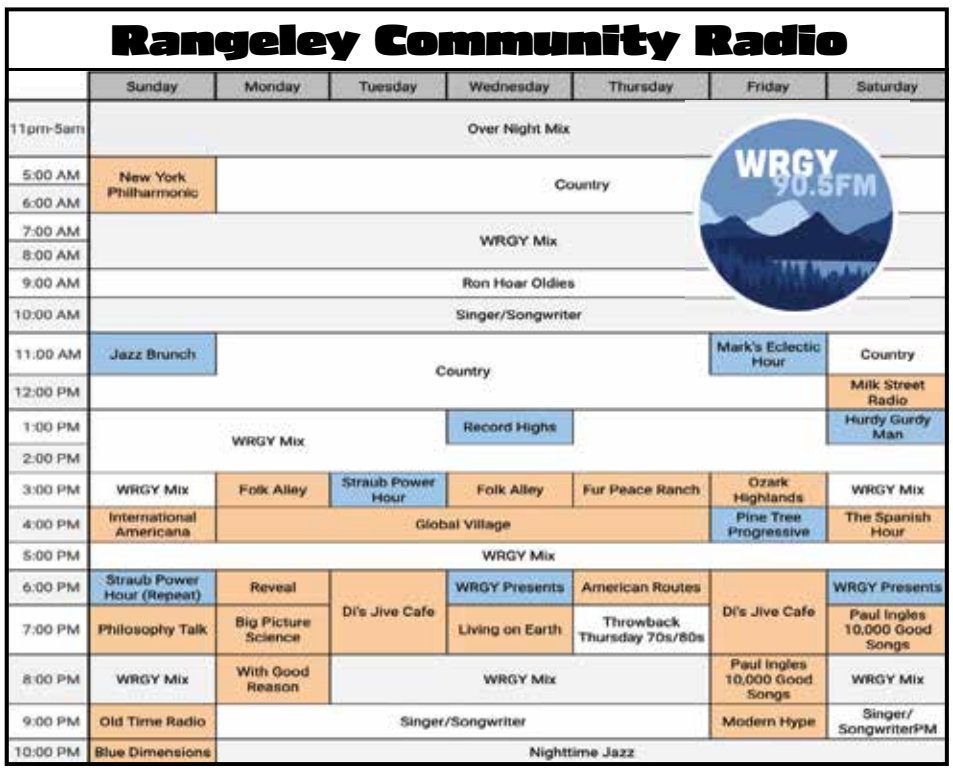
WATERVILLE: Central Maine Square Dance club offering beginner lessons, every Tuesday 6:30-8:00 p.m., George Mitchell School Dutton St., Waterville, cost is $5.00 per lesson, FMI call Bob at 447-0094.

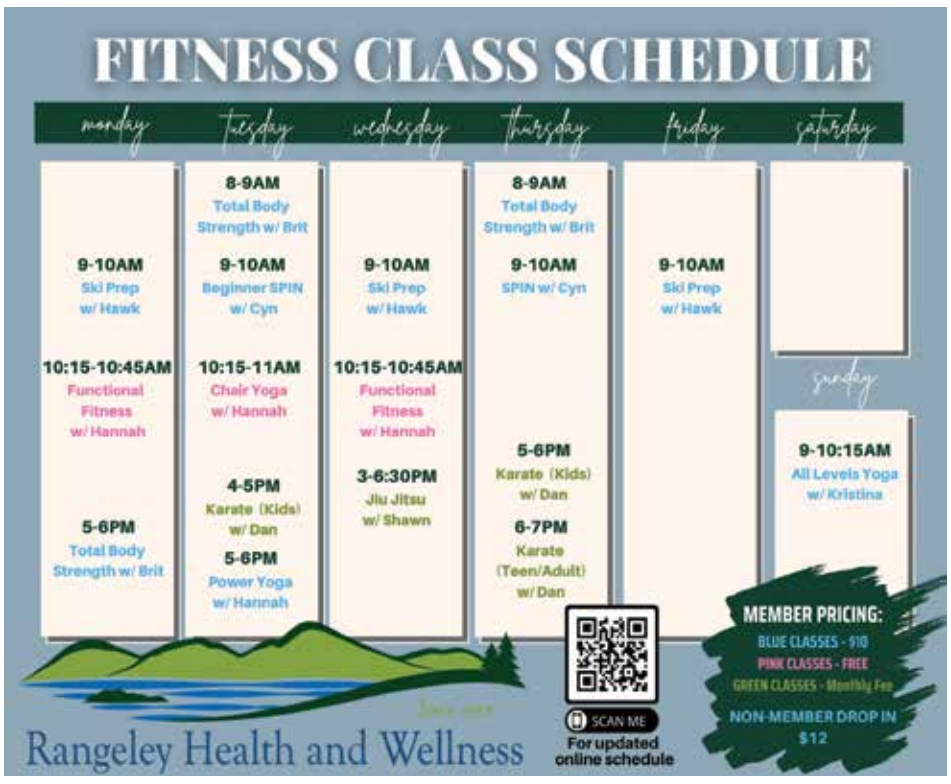
CANCELLATIONS
None listed.
POSTPONEMENTS
None listed.

Events for the Maine News Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: *https://www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf*. Email your event information to *articles@turnerpublishing.net* and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster.

MAINE CALENDAR PAGE

If you are hosting a free community event and would like it added to our calendar, please email your details to: *advertising@turnerpublishing.net* and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster. Our Maine Events calendar page is FREE for free community events. Church, library and school event news is free on this page. If you are a business and/or charging admission/fee, there is a charge for a display ad on these pages. Email: *advertising@turnerpublishing.net.* Call 207-225-2076 for prepayment options. Events for the Maine Events Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: *www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf*





Funny Things Kids Say!

Share the funniest thing your kid or grandchild said this week!

My daughter Renee came back from Florida with oranges and my six-year-old, great grandson, Camden was helping her make juice. As they were filling their cups, he looked up at her and said "Ah! Liquid sunshine!"

- Memere Anita St Germain, Lewiston

Submit this form with your Funniest Thing Kids Say conversation and we will publish in an upcoming issue.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Funny Things Kids Say
Turner Publishing, Inc.
P.O. Box 214, Turner, Maine 04282
Or email: FunnyThingsKidsSay@turnerpublishing.net

Scam Alert Bulletin Board

AARP Fraud Watch Network

Taking on AI Banking Scams

Artificial intelligence (AI) is making it even easier for criminals to steal people's money, and American's anxiety is rising. Concern is especially high around financial services, where scammers can use deepfake technology — AI-generated audio and video — to impersonate people and hack into bank accounts.

To help tackle the problem, AARP endorsed the Senate's bipartisan Preventing Deep Fakes Scams Act and a companion bipartisan bill in the House. The bill would establish a dedicated federal task force to examine the positive and negative impacts of AI on the financial services industry.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Click the link to fill out our online form or send an email to *me@aarp.org*.

MAINE STRONG MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
3rd Annual Softball Tournament

Ram McDonough photo

Congrats to Hits For Hope, 2025 Maine Strong Memorial Foundation Upper Bracket Champions! The "3rd annual Hits for Hope" took place October 11 to 12, 2025. The tournament was organized by the Maine Strong Memorial Foundation to honor victims of the October 2023 mass shooting in Lewiston, support their families, and celebrate the resilience of the community. The event aimed to raise funds to provide immediate assistance to Maine families facing tragedy. A portion of the proceeds also went to the Maine Resiliency Center to support those impacted by the shooting. In 2024, the event aimed to raise $350,000 for victims' families. The tournament is a key part of the community's healing process, serving as a positive event to remember the victims and celebrate the bonds within the community. Games in 2025 were played at memorial fields named for three victims: Ron Morin, Joe Walker, and Tricia Asselin.

Lower Division Champions: Fourniers Tree Service

If you would like to be in this special section contact your sales rep directly, call the office at (207) 225-2076 or email us at advertising@turnerpublishing.net

Exterior decorating safety tips

Metro

Decorating the exterior of a home for the holiday season is a beloved tradition in countless households. In the movie "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," Clark Griswold had "250 strands of imported Italian twinkle lights," each with 100 bulbs per strand. His grand total of 25,000 lights caused a temporary blackout. While driving around to take in holiday lighting displays, many people may see some that emulate Clark Griswold's vision and be inspired to create their own designs.

Lights are just one type of home decoration. Wreaths, inflatables, metal or wooden structures, and much more are part of holiday displays as well. While decorating can be fun and festive, it's also important to ensure that it is done safely. The following tips, courtesy of Travelers Risk Consultants and Meyer Landscaping & Design, can keep family and friends safe during this wonderful time of year.

• Plan ahead. Determine how many electrical outlets you have and plan the display around the accessibility of those outlets. Be sure to calculate the maximum amount of wattage allowed so you do not overload the electrical system. Never exceed the maximum number of strings or devices that may be linked together. Lighting packaging should provide such information. Also, plug all outdoor lights and decorations into ground-fault circuit interrupters to reduce the risk of electric shock.

• Test the lights. Only purchase lights that have been tested for safety. Look for a certification mark from UL, ETL, CSA, or another nationally recognized laboratory.

• Go with LED. Light emitting diode string lights run cooler, last longer and use less energy than incandescent lights.

• Inspect decorations. Make sure all the lights, electrical cords, lighted holiday decor, and inflatables are in good condition before use. Dispose of anything that has frayed wiring or is broken.

• Use only outdoor-rated products. Be sure the extension cords and any other products are rated for the outdoors. Electrical connections should be kept clean and dry before plugging things in, and an extra step of wrapping plug connections with electrical tape can further reduce moisture.

• Practice ladder safety. Ladders are often utilized when adding lights or other decor to homes. Always be safe on and around ladders. It's essential to maintain three points of contact while on the ladder. Don't risk leaning too hard to one side while on the ladder, and always have a spotter. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when stringing electrical decor and lights, as metal ladders conduct electricity.

• Identify where power lines are located. Be mindful of power lines when decorating outdoors. Keep oneself and decorations at least 10 feet away from power lines.

• Skip staples and nails. Nails and staples should not be used when decorating. Nails and staples can puncture the protective layers of a home, allowing moisture to get in and break down the structure of the home. A nail or staple also may accidentally puncture an electrical cord, increasing the risk of electrocution. Use hooks and other attachment devices specially designed for holiday decor.

• Avoid items that can contribute to roof damage. Heavy items on the roof can cause unnecessary stress to shingles and result in damage. Only use lightweight and appropriately anchored items on the roof.

• Dress appropriately. Before hanging holiday decorations and lights, assess the conditions and wear the proper clothing for the weather. If the weather is especially rough, skip decorating for a safer day.

Decorating safety is of the utmost importance and should be a priority this holiday season.

OUR CLASSIFIED PAGE is **FREE** for free/swap items or for non-business sales. There is a fee for business sales or services. See below for sizes/rates. Different rates apply for help wanted and real estate ads. Please call 225-2076 for rates. Or email: *advertising@turnerpublishing.net*

DISCLAIMER: Readers should determine the value of services/products advertised in this publication before any exchange of money or personal information takes place. Turner Publishing, Inc.'s classified ads service may be used only for lawful purposes. The violation of any applicable local, state, federal or foreign law or regulation is prohibited. Turner Publishing, Inc. is not responsible nor liable for any personal or professional services which are offered in its classifieds section. All parties who post classified ads and all parties who elect to utilize the services posted assume full liability. None of the individuals listed are endorsed in any way by Turner Publishing, Inc.

Legal Information

PO Box 214 • Turner, ME 04282

email: *advertising@turnerpublishing.net* • *articles@turnerpublishing.net*

The Mountain Messenger is published by Turner Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 214, Turner, ME 04282-0214. Advertisers and those wishing to submit articles of interest can call 1-207-225- 2076 or email *articles@turnerpublishing.net.* Any views expressed within this paper do not necessarily reflect those of this paper. This paper assumes no responsibility for typographical errors that may occur, but will reprint, at no additional cost, that part of any advertisement in which the error occurs before the next issue's deadline. This paper also reserves the right to edit stories and articles submitted for publication.

All content within our publication and on our website is for educational and entertainment purposes only and should not be considered personal, legal, or medical advice. In the state of Maine, cannabis is intended for use by those 21 and older, or 18 and older with a medical prescription. Both the printed publication and website are intended for those over the age of 21. If consuming, please keep out of the reach of children. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for the advertisements within this publication. We strive to ensure the accuracy of the information published. The Publisher cannot be held responsible for any consequences which arise due to error or omissions. This paper is mailed on a weekly basis, FREE to all postal customers of Strong, Avon, Phillips, Madrid, Rangeley, and Oquossoc and the Plantations of Dallas, Rangeley & Sandy River.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Send this order form with payment to

Turner Publishing
P.O. Box 214
Turner, ME 04282

Number of Weeks _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ **Zip** _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mountain Messenger's Bishop

Advertising:
Jodi Cornelio
George McGregor
Brett Bannister
Kathlene Clarke
Jessica Mason

Production
Michelle Pushard
Brett Bannister

Proofreader
Robin Robertson
Jared Wood

Writer/Photographer
Bill Van Tassel

Administration
Jessica Mason
Brett Bannister

RRG&SA Junior Guides wrap up 29th year

RANGELEY — For 29 years, the Junior Maine Guides program has been at the heart of the Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association's mission to connect kids with the outdoors. Starting with the Basic Group, campers ages 9 and 10 build the foundation of knowledge and confidence they will carry into more challenging adventures as Advanced Guides.

This summer, RRG&SA welcomed 9 Junior Guides in the Basic Group and 7 in the Advanced Group. Both groups were supported by Junior Counselors Natalie, Dakota, and Tess, all former campers. Leadership came from Ashley Greene and Karon Noyes, with behind-the-scenes support from Elaine Holcombe and new volunteer Tanya Baron, a retired teacher who taught team building and orienteering. The Advanced Group was led by Susan and Bill Lewis.

The Basic program focuses on three core areas: Maine Mammals & Vertebrates, where campers learn about local wildlife through tracking, skulls, pelts, and habitats; Invertebrates & Insects, which highlights their role in Rangeley's fisheries through activities like fly tying and fly fishing; and Watercraft & Safety, where campers practice boating skills and safety on the water through trips and challenges.

The Advanced Guides, ages 11 to 13, enjoyed a wide variety of hands-on experiences. They practiced shotgun and rifle skills with Sheri Oldham and David Kreting, went hiking with the TRAC team led by Jeff Zapolsky and Brian Holmes, explored nature photography with Nick Leadley, and joined Rangeley Fire Rescue for search and rescue practice, along with trauma first aid training from the Saddleback Ski Patrol and Border Patrol.

Other highlights included kayaking the Cupsuptic River with Heather Knight, Karon Noyes, and Susan Lewis, using kayaks generously provided by River's Edge Sports, and archery lessons with Brent England. The group also spent a full day fishing on Kennebago Lake, where Sara Smith helped sharpen their fly-casting skills. They then fished alongside mentors from the Kennebago Lake Association and ended the day with a cookout. Campers also visited the Historic Rangeley Museum, where Ashley Greene and Bill Lewis introduced them to the area's fishing and hunting heritage.

To keep the program close-knit, only 10 Basic campers are accepted each summer, with a waiting list most years. Advanced spots are reserved for campers who finish the Basic program. Over the past 29 years, almost 300 young people have gained outdoor skills and experiences through the Junior Guides.

"None of this would be possible without the many volunteers, community partners, and local businesses whose time, talents, and generosity made this year's Junior Guides program such a success," said Sonny Pierce, president of RRG&SA. "From sharing skills and guiding adventures to providing equipment and support, their help continues to strengthen the program and inspire the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts."

In addition to this generous community support, the Junior Guides Program received a $1,200 grant from the Northern Forest Center, with funding provided by L.L.Bean. This partnership helps ensure that the Junior Guides program continues to give youth meaningful outdoor experiences and the chance to grow as future outdoor leaders.

Tips to reduce brown tail moth hair exposure during fall outdoor activities

AUGUSTA— The Department of Health and Human Services' Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC), the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Forest Service (MFS), and 211 Maine remind residents and visitors to protect themselves from brown tail moth hairs this fall.

Brown tail moth caterpillars shed tiny, toxic hairs that can get stirred up during outdoor activities like raking, mowing, and other typical fall yard work. Those hairs can cause a skin rash that feels similar to poison ivy. When hair becomes airborne, it can be inhaled, leading to breathing difficulties. The hair can stay toxic in the environment for up to three years, especially in dry or sheltered areas. Though brown tail moth activity has decreased significantly in recent years, the Maine CDC recommends Maine people continue to take precautions when outside and engaging in activities that could stir up the hair. DACF's MFS has found evidence of brown tail moths in all Maine counties, with the majority in southern and central Maine.

Most people affected by the hair develop a localized rash that lasts for a few hours up to several days. In more sensitive people, the rash can be severe and last for weeks. Hair may also cause respiratory distress. Treatment for rash or breathing problems focuses on relieving symptoms and eliminating further exposure.

To reduce exposure to brown tail moth hairs:

Stay informed about brown tail moth hotspots by visiting the DACF MFS' Interactive Browntail Moth Dashboard to see where MFS notes brown tail moth activity. Then, be proactive, know the risks, take steps to protect yourself, and monitor your surroundings.

When performing outdoor activities that may stir up caterpillar hairs:

• Aim for damp days or spray vegetation with water. Moisture helps keep the hair from becoming airborne.

• Cover your face and any exposed skin by wearing a long sleeve shirt, long pants, goggles, a respirator/dust mask, and a hat. You can also use disposable coveralls over clothing.

• Secure clothing around the neck, wrists, and ankles.

• Avoid using leaf blowers in areas known to have heavy infestations.

• Take cool showers and change clothes after outdoor activities in infested areas.

• Dry laundry inside to avoid getting hair on clothing.

For more information:

Contact 211 Maine for answers to frequently asked questions on brown tail moths: Dial 211 or 1-866-811-5695 or text your zip code to 898-211.

Maine's largest direct mail community publication company serving nearly 250,000 homes and "It's All Good News"!

A Product of Turner Publishing INCORPORATED

Turner Publishing Inc., PO Box 214, Turner, ME 04282 • 207-225-2076 • Fax: 207-225-5333 • E-Mail: articles@turnerpublishing.net • Web: www.turnerpublishing.net

Production
Michelle Ducharme Pushard
Brett Bannister

Inside Sales
Jessica Mason

Advertising/Marketing
George McGregor
Jodi Cornelio
Steve Rudin
Kathlene Clarke

Reporter/Writer
Bill Van Tassel

Proofreaders
Jared Wood
Robin Robertson

Published by Turner Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 214, Turner, ME 04282-0214 Turner Publishing Inc. founded in 1992. Advertisers and those wishing to submit articles of interest can call 1-207-225-2076, email advertising@turnerpublishng.net or you can also send e-mail to us at: articles@turnerpublishing.net. Turner Publishing produces, monthly, bi-monthly quarterly and weekly publications. Any views expressed within these papers does not necessarily reflect those of these papers. These papers assume no responsibility for typographical errors that may occur, but we will reprint, at no additional cost, that part of any advertisement in which the error occurs before the next issue's deadline. This paper also reserves the right to edit stories and articles submitted for publication. All content within our publication and on our website is for educational and entertainment purposes only and should not be considered personal, legal, or medical advice. In the state of Maine, cannabis is intended for use by those 21 and older, or 18 and older with a medical prescription. Both the printed publication and website are intended for those over the age of 21. If consuming, please keep out of the reach of children. The Publisher assumes no responsibility for the advertisements within this publication. We strive to ensure the accuracy of the information published. The Publisher cannot be held responsible for any consequences which arise due to error or omissions.

MAINE OUTDOORS

V. Paul Reynolds

The Secret of Big Bog

Not far from the Canadian border in northwest Maine, lays Big Bog, just west of Fifth St. John Lake The bog stretches and winds for miles broken up only by Big Bog Brook, a serpentine waterway that apparently was once used by Great Northern Paper Company to sluice logs southward. Visiting it and the campsite there in early September with my friend Mark Cain, we were struck by the solitude and the expansiveness of it all.

Strolling about the campsite a memorial stone set prominently overlooking the brook caught my eye, and then it dawned on me: "Big Bog Brook! This is where those two Maine Game wardens mysteriously disappeared in the fall of 1922." I had heard the story in bits and pieces a number of times, but when I had set our moose- scouting destination to Big Bog Brook, I had not put two and two together.

The stone in the Wardens' honor reads: "This spot marks the location of which Maine game wardens David F. Brown and Mertley E. Johnson died in the line of duty, end of watch Nov. 15, 1922. Gone but not forgotten."

It sounds kind of melodramatic, perhaps, but when you gaze at the stone and try to imagine that time and era of fish and wildlife law enforcement, the Big Bog seems to take on a kind of persona. You know that it holds a secret about what really happened to these two men. The temptation is to ask of it, "You were there then, flowing freely like you are today. What happened ? What do you know?"

The two wardens had set out on foot in early November to check on beaver poachers at Big Bog. Their families were told to expect them back by Thanksgiving. Neither of the two men were ever seen alive again. Their destination had been Big Bog, which was a trapping hotspot for American and Canadian beaver trappers. In those days, beaver pelts were highly valued and so the stakes were high and market killing of wildlife was not uncommon.

Photo by V Paul Reynolds

At Big Bog Brook, where this memorial stone is placed, is the last known whereabouts of two Maine Game Wardens who simply disappeared in November of 1922.

According to modern- day Game Warden Kale O'Leary, who has researched this story thoroughly, the search turned up nothing. But then in the spring of 1923, the bodies of Brown and Johnson were found in the water under the ice at Big Bog. Oddly enough, the autopsy, which ruled a presumed drowning, showed no water in the lungs of the deceased. Both of the men were physically fit and the depth of the brook did not exceed four feet. That they had both drowned just did not add up. Never found were a long rifle and a revolver belonging to the missing wardens.

Suspicion of foul play led to an exhaustive investigation. Suspects included two Canadian trappers from Quebec, the Rodrigue brothers, who had been trapping the bog at the time of the wardens' disappearance and had been camping in the area. Reports indicated that one of the brothers had quit and gone back across the border before the trapping season had ended.

Of course, mysteries like this always spawn stories. Trappers who knew the area speculated that the Rodrigue brothers set a trap, not for beavers, but for wardens Johnson and Brown. According to O'Leary, one report said the poachers rigged a foot bridge dropped as the wardens crossed Big Bog Brook.

Odds are that Big Bog will never disclose its secret; yet sometimes the passing of time lets hints of the truth slip out. You wonder. Is there a descendant of the brothers who has heard the real story from family lore? Or maybe it was another beaver poacher altogether who did in the two men?

A number of other Maine Game Wardens, besides Brown and Johnson, have lost their lives in the line of duty over the years while safeguarding Maine's fish and wildlife. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide and host of a weekly radio program "Maine Outdoors" heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network. He has authored three books. Online purchase information is available at www.sportingjournal.com, Outdoor Books.