

2004 Long-Line Release



The Aroostook & Atikonak River News



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Castings from Maine

Lipitor, green drakes, Atkins Diet, sucker/trout runs, satellite internet, new guides, fire watch patrol, woodcock in snowstorms, new radio-phone, marriage proposals, bear problems, Indians and lost legends made up an exciting and sad season. Diets and drugs, we have found are not just for the city weary. New technology works just as well here in the wilderness as in Boston and luckily heavy traffic for us is still seeing 3-9 moose on the way to town.

Our ice-out was May 7th with record 6-8 foot snow drifts with open lawn between them. We were raking leaves and shoveling snow the same day to open camp. May also brought a new float plane to our 'fleet' {if two is a fleet} and we flew it for the state spotting fires all summer. Micmac Indians fill the camp with a 3-day seminar. The sucker spawning run in late May was a sight to behold with big brookies picking up eggs. Jack McPhee, a flying legend in Maine, died of a heart attack while flying lynx telemetry patrol in May. He will be missed!

June brought hatches of black flies, may flies, dragon flies and drakes with the fish cooperating with some great trout. Water levels were up all season



Photo contest winner Hank Okraski.

and air temps were cool for great fishing. The fish never really went into the spring holes for more than a few days all summer. John Gibson, a northern forest-land legend, {my step-dad} died of a heart attack in June also. See article later on.

July/August continued cool and wet with some of the finest Hexagenia hatches with big fish taking them that I have seen in years. Matt J. proposes to Jess, she says yes. Our big project for the summer was new roof/deck/window replacement for the dining room. The weatherman promised it would be perfect as we ripped off the old roof.....then the skies opened up. We couldn't get at the weatherman, but we were able to clean up the mess. The improvements look great!

September brought on many bear and what promised to be the best fishing of the year with the high water. The one week hunt as always was a welcome change and quite successful as usual. The summer high water quickly dropped with the September drought and the late river fishing never really materialized. Thank God for good pond fishing.

October and November again brought on record water and winds. Highlights were: David McLellan, age 10, shoots his first {and second} grouse with his dad, mom and younger brother. Terrific woodcock hunting had on October 21st in a blizzard. Denis Burgess of Vermont took free trip for largest buck during first week. Heaviest buck taken near main camp dressed 260#. 10 deer tagged for the season thanks to the Langleys.

It was great to have Joe Nimmer back with us guiding again and new guides Ed Kennedy and Jeff Labree were super additions to the fishing lineup. Both of these new {to us} guides have fished and hunted this area for years and their knowledge is a great addition. My thanks to our great guides and crew for another terrific year. I can't imagine doing this without their help along with our super customers. —Matt P.

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2003 was full of new and exciting experiences for me including my first moose

hunt, receiving my commercial pilots license, getting "my own plane," becoming a master Maine guide, graduating from the University of Maine, and oh yeah proposing to Jess. My two commercial licenses, my master guide's license, and graduating college all came within the span of one week. The new plane that I am now flying (primarily on the Forest Service Fire Watch) is a Cessna 172 that the camp purchased in the spring. Other highlights of my summer were taking Jess fishing and hunting for the first time. On her first fishing experience, she caught and released a 16 ½ inch brook trout on a dry fly at 9:30 P.M. She learned how to fly-fish with me in a canoe at dusk with an Orvis T-3, and an extended body green drake on her 5X tippet. The name of the pond will not be disclosed at this time, however, if you are interested, we may be able to make a deal. She did amazingly well for her first time with a fly rod in her hand. Her first hunting experience did not go so well since I failed to find her any birds. However, we never got out of the truck, since every time we went hunting, we were on a mission to clean outcamps and had no time for real hunting. This year will be a different story. I have already guaranteed her a limit so we will have to make some time.

—Matt J.

2003 Guiding

Wow, 14 seasons of guiding at Libby's! I can't imagine a better way to have spent those years. The camps just keep getting better and better. The work that Matt and Ellen have done to the camps is unbelievable, always a new project going on. Anyone from 1 to 97 can come, be comfortable and feel at home!

As always the fishing from May to September was pure fun. Some days produced more numbers than others, but I believe if you draw a 50 mile circle around camp the best wild brook trout fishery in the U.S. can be found! I get to share this fabulous area with one great person after another all season long, what a way to make a living.

Each year I try to scout out new bodies of water to take our customers to. This year I explored 4 new spots. Next season some of you are in for a treat in a couple of these spots.

Bear week was another great week, although total numbers of sightings were down slightly, 12 out of 13 hunters saw bear. I love having father-son groups in camp. This year the teenage sons showed Dad "how it should be done". Justin and Devin I wish you could hunt with us every year, great job! Also good friend, Jimmy from NJ made it 3 for 3 and didn't even get chased by an angry bear this year {in his wheel chair}.



Please help us beat the referendum this fall that wants to make it a crime to hunt bear!

My moose hunt this year was another "classic". Steve and I hunted by canoe and Steve made a great shot with his 7mm mag.. The bull fell in 4 feet of water, oops. We were able to radio call back to camp and the troops (Matt J, Toby and Bob) came to the rescue. With boat, motor and inner tube the troops floated the moose down a stream, across a lake to the truck in total darkness. Thanks to the GPS no problem! Another great memory etched into my mind.

Grouse season started good but got tough as the season progressed. However, son Danny managed to supply us with some fantastic cookouts with his pistol on 13 grouse. I think the cycle will be back on the up swing next fall. Bring your dogs and have some fun.

This years deer season (my passion) was one of my best and one of my toughest.. It started out fast and furious with #3 son, Danny and #2 son, Joey both taking nice deer. Then Brian took a nice 6 point the first week. The second and third weeks which are normally the best turned out to be the hardest 2 weeks of hunting I can remember. No deer showing, little sign, and lots of wind! My first thought was no deer here, but then during 4th week while we are closed the deer are back. I took a nice buck that week. This winter the deer yards are full. Where were they in November?

Looking forward to seeing all of you in "04. Don't forget the kids.

—Mike

John W. “Bud” Gibson

The world lost one of her best this June 6, a war hero, family man, woodsman, forester, deacon, hunter, fisherman, guide, moose-towner, surveyor, selectman and mason, my dad for the last 34 years. John came into my life in 1968, nine years after my own dad died. He courted and married my mother in '69 {along with her 4 sons} and helped her keep Libby Camps alive and well until Ellen and I bought them in '77. John taught by example and you knew from his look and his quiet way where you stood. The following is from his obituary:

“John William ‘Bud’ Gibson, 83, died peacefully at his home. He was born in Allagash, Maine Feb.16, 1920. John loved God, his family, his church, nature, lemon pie and the



New York Yankees. During World War II, he served in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters and was a member of the Kamikaze Survivors Association. John married Vera Gardner who predeceased him in 1966. He married Elsie Parker Libby in 1969. They enjoyed hunting, fishing and canoeing in the North Maine Woods.

“As a young man he worked for the

Maine Forest Service from 1946-1959 and went to work for Pingree Timberlands as Land Agent in the Ashland District until his retirement in 1982. He was proud of his work for the company. John was well known for his knowledge of the woods and Native Americans of the area. He was instrumental in the location of several Indian burial sites. The Maine author, Lew Dietz, published several books and articles about his canoeing exploits with John.

“He is survived by two daughters, four step sons, ten grandchildren and one great grandson, two brothers, one sister and many nieces and nephews”. His granddaughter, Kelly Olcott and husband Jim, had his first great granddaughter 3 days after his death, Lucy Gibson Olcott. John was a legend and leaves a legacy.

—Matt P

Fishing the Hex hatch



Whenever you get the opportunity to fish a hex hatch in northern Maine, (sometimes referred to as a green drake hatch) you'll definitely experience an unforgettable event. These hatches normally occur late in the day and continue until dark. The fly is large, usually hatches in big numbers, and can provide some of the best dry fly action for large fish that you'll ever see in this State. Most anglers use large flies to imitate the hatch such as large wolf patterns,

grasshoppers, drakes, stimulators, etc.. To increase your success when fishing this hatch, there are at least two important things to consider. First, fish tend to cruise when feeding during this hatch. Therefore not only is your fly selection important, but fly placement is in my mind equally as important. If you're not leading the fish, usually you're not catching fish regardless of your fly selection. Casting within the ring, seldom produces strikes. If you're patient and take the time to figure out which direction the fish is moving and lead the fish (the bigger the fish, the bigger the lead) the strike is almost guaranteed unless the fish changes direction on you. Second, a twitching movement on your fly during this hatch will help produce results. Watch the naturals, almost all struggle to get

out of their shuck. The fish key in on this movement and the more you imitate this action, the more your fly resembles the natural. In addition, because of the sheer number of flies that come off in a relatively short period of time, this action draws more attention to your fly and helps trigger strikes.

None of this is “Rocket Science;” if anglers spent more time observing what's happening around them I'm convinced their fishing would improve. Of course it's even better to hire a guide and let him do the observing while you fish. Thanks to Matt, Ellen all the camp staff at Libby's and to all the guests that make guiding at Libby Camps a great experience. I hope to see all of you again in 2004. —GaryC.

From the Breadboard

The snow is gently falling, the fireplace crackling and the 2003 season is but a fond memory. Winter greetings to you all and our best wishes for a blessed 2004.

The seasons continue to pass more quickly each year.

We had a very busy early spring season "opening up". We were later than normal since the snow late in the season made the logging roads impassable. In addition to that Matt was fortunate to be drawn for a turkey permit and his trip was late April. This hunt was a new experience for Matt, he and guide, Toby Montgomery, were successful with a 19.2 lbs. Tom, which now is mounted in the dining room.

Alison and Tim worked with us again until late August. We took advantage of Tim's woodworking skills throughout their time with us. We replaced all of the windows and skylights in the dining room and the front windows in the four oldest cabins. This was also the year that our cabin trim color changed from red to green and all shingles are now or soon will be forest green. It looks terrific! We also finished the new camp at Mooseleuk Lake and refitted the old one with new windows and doors. This makes our fourth outpost camp {along with Clear Lake, Lower Hudson Pond, Chandler Pond Outlet} to include 2 cabins, a sleeping cabin and a combo cook/sleeping cabin. What a great location for family vacations or guided overnight trips where privacy is appreciated.

Matt and Jess {see related article} had a great '03. Jessica barely got mention in the '03 newsletter, as she and Matt were quite tight lipped about their relationship — oh how

things change! We are pleased to have Jessica become part of our family, as we were Tim last year.

Our family was saddened with the death of Matt's step-father, John Gibson, in June. John was a quiet, hardworking woodsman who left a lasting impression on everyone he came in contact with. Our very special thanks go out to Tom and Tracy at the Oxbow Lodge for stepping in and taking care of camp so we could attend the calling hours and funeral without worry.

We just can't seem to get away from the Brittany Spaniel breed, our newest, named Belle, came to live with us in June. We must be crazy, bringing an 8 week old puppy home in the middle of black fly season. She has wormed her way into our hearts and chewed into too many pair of our shoes, socks, sweaters, jeans and dog beds.

What's on tap for 2004? We have permission to build two more cabins, one on Millinocket Lake for Matt & Jess and a new outpost on Brown Pond. The Brown Pond camp is an old Libby Camp which was sold in '41. The run down and mostly fallen down camp hasn't been used in years, the old owner didn't even have the keys to get in {you could walk through the back wall anyway}. We also have plans to build a new toolshed and tear down the tractor shed. Who knows what we will find when we empty that camp.

The ice is cut, 14 tons of it, packed in sawdust and ready for the '04 season. So pick up the phone, email us or write the old fashion way to let us know when we'll be seeing you this year. God Bless all of you
—Ellen.

Big Racks-off season

I am frequently asked by clients, "What do you do for fun in the winter when you're not guiding?" Well, I spend almost as much time in the woods in winter as I do in the summer. I find the best way to cure the withdrawal symptoms after deer season has ended is to get right back out there. Immediately after the season is a great time to scout for next year. The deer quickly return to their normal pattern once the hunters leave the woods and you can see

what bucks made it through the season.

I search for deer and moose antler drops to make chandeliers with, so I combine scouting with looking for sheds. This year my diligent searching paid off with the find of a lifetime. I found a buck who couldn't make it through another harsh Maine winter and died in his bed. The photo below tells the story. The rack scores a Boone and Crocket gross of 210, a real trophy.

—Toby Montgomery



Toby's trophy find.

The Hunt



Matt Sr. & Jr. October 17th.

The most exciting event of the year, except of course for the engagement, was my first moose hunt. I was the sub-permittee on my dad's permit that he drew. Ahh the perks of being the Fish and Wildlife

Advisory Council Chairman, (just kidding dad).

Unfortunately we drew a bull permit in zone one. If you aren't familiar with zone one, you aren't in the middle of nowhere, you can't even see nowhere from there. It is a zone that dad had never set foot into and one that I had only worked in for three weeks as a forester. We stayed at our Clear Lake camp and had an hour drive to get to the very southeastern tip of the zone. The huge zone goes North and West from the Umsaskis Bridge on the Allagash bordering Quebec. Needless to say we had a tougher hunt than it would have been in our own zone.

We hunted hard and didn't see any respectable bulls up to Friday, so we decided that if it was brown it's down. We spotted a small eight pointer in a clear cut just off the realty (pronounced reality) road. We decided to go for it. First we saw a cow and calf walking through the cut and into the swamp on the east side, then we saw nothing else for a long time, so dad decided to climb a spruce tree. He got about thirty feet up and could see a bull just over a small knoll. We snuck up on the bull, but spooked another cow and calf in the process. We could hear noises in a clump of trees where we thought the bull was and waited for him to appear, but it wasn't the eight pointer. Dad motioned back to me that it was huge, but unfortunately, neither of us was in a position for a shot. We saw the animal move off to our right, but ten minutes later heard noises off to our left. We hadn't spooked the animal yet so we thought we could stalk it. We followed it by sound for about ¾ mile and had to give up in a thicket of whips.

We decided to get up in the Husky seaplane and find another way into the cut. Once in the air we saw that we had been following the eight pointer and the large bull had stayed right where we had first seen it. We landed and came up with a plan of attack to get downwind of the

animal. As we reached the back of the old clear-cut, dad spotted the animal through his glasses, about 200 yards away, still no chance for a shot. We snuck up to within about 100 yards to where the moose should be walking out into a clearing. I was poised and ready for him to take the last two steps into the clearing when he promptly lay down. All I could see was horns. Dad motioned to walk closer. After about 100 feet of the slowest, quietest steps of my life, dad motioned that he was going to give a grunt to get the moose to come out of his bed. I was in no position to shoot so I had him wait until I could find steady ground. Unfortunately, I landed on some branches and the moose must have thought WWII was happening with all the noise I made. Obviously the moose got up. He first looked directly at me, and since I was hesitant to take the brisket shot I waited for a second. He then looked at dad and gave me a perfect broadside shot. I shot him through the heart and lungs on the first shot with my Browning 308. I then proceeded to make sure he was dead by lacing him with three more bullets through the back leg, back and neck. There was no way I was letting this one get away. The moose was a gorgeous 21 point, wide-palmed, 47 ½ inch bull that probably weighed about 850 pounds. We were forced to quarter it since it was about ¼ mile off the road.

One side note: As I was about to take my third shot, the moose presented itself broadside to dad. He squeezed the trigger and... oops, forgot to take the safety off. Good thing we didn't leave this one up to him. —Matt J

Brook Trout Queer

That's what I am. You see, I do love all trout and char, and am especially fond of squaretails, but a fall run, mature male brook trout with it's



kipe, hump back, white tipped fins and red belly, now that gets me excited. Regardless of size or gender and whether from a beaver pond or raging Labrador river, brookies are a spectacle. Even though they all possess a worm pattern on their backs and blue halos around red spots, it seems that every different water produces a unique looking fish. The Libby guides are often marveling at how different the same species of fish can look from ponds that are so yellow that one guide thought they resembled cutthroats and dubbed the pond they came from little Colorado. Well maybe, just maybe, I spend too much time in the woods and on the water, but the truth be known; I am and probably always will be in awe of the mature male Brook Trout. Tight Lines. —Bob Johnson

Watch out here I come

As you might know, Matt and I have been “just friends” (according to Ellen) for a while now, but on July 1, 2003 we became something new. As I got out of bed for another hard days work at camp, I dressed in my work overalls and stumbled down the stairs. I then went outside to Matt’s little cabin to wake him up. To my surprise, he was laying in bed in a suit and tie waiting for me. As I opened the door, he sat up and, with a ring in his hands, he asked me to marry him. Of course I said YES. I was so excited I didn’t know what to do next.

Some of you may have already figured out that I am not exactly a morning person and it was only six o’clock. When I went into the kitchen that morning to start my daily routine, everyone knew something was up. I just couldn’t stop smiling. They all figured it out by my shining face and rock on my finger and were all very excited for us. That afternoon we decided to fly to Eagle Lake to celebrate the occasion with my parents. When we were almost there, we got caught in a lightning storm and torrential downpour, so it took longer than we had expected (we

had to spend about an hour in a covered tractor to get out of the rain). We had to spend the night at Eagle Lake due to thunderstorms in the area. All in all it was a very adventurous and exciting day for us.



Rick Libbey photo.

Matt and I have set our wedding date for **August 14, 2004**. We will be getting married in northern Maine (and you thought Libbys was as far north as you could go) specifically on Eagle Lake. The reception will be held in Fort Kent where I grew up. Plans are coming together and the day is coming soon. Please think of us on that day and pray for sunshine and no rain.

Some people, like Gary Corson, believe everything here at camp will start to change with my French influence, but I haven’t heard him complaining about the whoopee pies and the better than “fishing” cake that I make him. Don’t worry I don’t plan to make any drastic changes, but I plan to be around for a long time so watch out, here I come.

—Jessica

Danny’s Year

2003 may have had some tough elements, but my #3 son Danny had a pretty good year. Most of you know him as our camp chore boy/dock hand.

The year started with Danny and I in New Mexico on an elk hunt. We had drawn only one tag so Danny rolled the camcorder as I made a lucky 325 yard shot. It was a great trip for both of us.

Come May and Danny is working weekends and school vacations in camp. He does sneak in a great day of fly fishing with John Healy and me. He catches several trophy trout out of my favorite stream. John and I are not so lucky.

June and July are mostly work for Dan, but there is a day of fishing at Mikes Lake with his two brothers and me that turns out to be the best day of fishing that that body of water gives up all season. He also got his first day in a float tube to scout a new pond with a ton of small trout.

August was just work and back to school, but September 1st is Dan’s birthday and he and I play hooky and scout another new pond. The fish were big and fat! Some of you will see this unnamed pond with me.

October: Danny uses his hard earned Contender .410 to take 13 grouse, getting his limit with this hand gun one day! But it is October 25th (youth



Danny’s first deer.

deer day) that he will never forget. At about 2:30 that afternoon he made a perfect 175 yard shot on his first deer!! Those of you that have been there know how he felt. Great job Dan.
—Mike aka. Dad

Who in heck hunts anymore?

Glad you asked! Libby's has always been a traditional sporting camp, providing opportunities for all nature lovers. Hunters, however are probably the most adamant conservationists, environmentalists, naturalists and wilderness purists that we see at camp. They are, by nature, the most observant humans in the woods missing little, using their keenest senses in hopes of fooling a wary buck, bear, moose or bird. Hunters do not count a successful trip by the kill, but rather by the amount of game and quality of habitat they get to hunt in. The kill is a bonus, the added reward, the touchdown, but not the main reason to hunt.

I remember when one of our fishermen brought his fiancée up to fish. She was firmly against fishing and hunting. We finally got her to try

a fly rod and eventually she hooked a trout (in a beautiful setting) and became hooked herself. But she still said she would never hunt. Well of course you know that we talked her into bird hunting. I can still remember the excitement when she shot her first grouse. A couple of years later while her husband was in the Mediterranean she even came hunting with her kids by herself. A year later and she came deer hunting (with the family) and her husband shot his first buck. This fall her son came of age and shot his first grouse, what a thrill for them all!..... But why did she become a hunter?

Hunters, I believe, are brought up as hunters or are shown hunting by a good friend or family member. There is so much negative publicity on the subject in the news and in the schools

that no one would take it up on their own. New hunters are not born into it; it must be passed on much the same as good values are. Kids don't grow up wanting to hunt and fish unless they are shown, but many times they are shown only how to run a video game, TV remote or how to party on alcohol and drugs. Hunting opens up opportunity, for anyone, to enjoy time with themselves when peer pressure could push them to do... otherwise! Someone must pass it on.

Who is a hunter? Typically it's a person who appreciates nature, likes to be with himself and to see God's creation in its finest form. He is someone that has been shown the love of the oldest 'sport' known to man. He could be you.

Twin Toms

Last May, I was one of the lucky ones to get a turkey permit during season B, which happened to start on my birthday, May 5. My friend, also Alison, got drawn for the same, so we made our plans.....I guess I should say our husbands did. We were to get up and leave the house by 4 am. Our husbands had already scouted the area we were to hunt and where they had found two Jakes {young males} that we were supposed to shoot. So we did get up early, got dressed in full camouflage and had our faces painted. My husband, Tim thought this was the best part of the hunt.

Now for the exciting part. We arrived at our spot by 4:30 and set up our blinds and decoys. We sat about ten feet apart with our husbands nearby. Tim started to call (clucking like a hen with his box call) and soon we could hear the turkeys get up for breakfast. Once we heard them gobbling, I put my gun up. I didn't realize that they were still in their tree

beds. I held the gun up for about 20 minutes until my arms couldn't hold it up any more {it was a Remington 870 12 ga. which is pretty heavy for a woman}. Almost as soon as I put the gun down, some hens walked in behind me. I was about to try to reposition myself to look that way when out of nowhere two Toms ran full speed at our decoys. At this point there was nothing left to do but shoot! But, I didn't have my gun up and I wasn't sure when Alison was going to shoot. Many thoughts raced through my head, but SHOOT!! prevailed. So I hauled up the gun

and shot as fast as I could without bringing attention to my self. As soon as I shot I heard Alison shoot. Both turkeys went down and we were on our feet running to the birds. We got a double!! Some would say we got a quadruple since we ruined the two decoys that were too near the turkeys.

So much for the jakes we had planned to shoot. We ended up with two Toms (grown-up males) that were exactly alike. Each weighed about 18 ½ pounds with 9 ½ inch beards and ¾ inch spurs. Not bad for two gals on a hunting trip for a half an hour.....

—Alison L Winslow



Rick Libbey
photo.

My 2 cents worth on the bear referendum

I am tired of being portrayed as a threat to society or as being unfair or unethical. I own guns and I hunt. I got my first .22 for Christmas 42 years ago when I was 10. Thank-you Mom and Dad! My 3 boys got their first guns between the ages of 10 and 12 and they are my favorite hunting companions. They show great respect and safety with their firearms and I am proud to share the outdoors with them.

In a large part of this country it has become 'politically incorrect' to admit to being a gun owner. While I respect everyone's right to have an opinion or strong view on this subject, I am not going to be made to feel guilty or like I am a second class citizen for having mine.

For the last 23 years I have been a registered Maine guide. Seven months out of each year I spend everyday taking people hunting and fishing. I am not going to let anyone or any group make me feel ashamed of this. In fact I am damn proud! There has not been a single day in the last 23 years where I felt that I had been unfair or unethical in my pursuit of any wild fish or game. In fact many days I felt the game had been unfair

with its lack of cooperation.

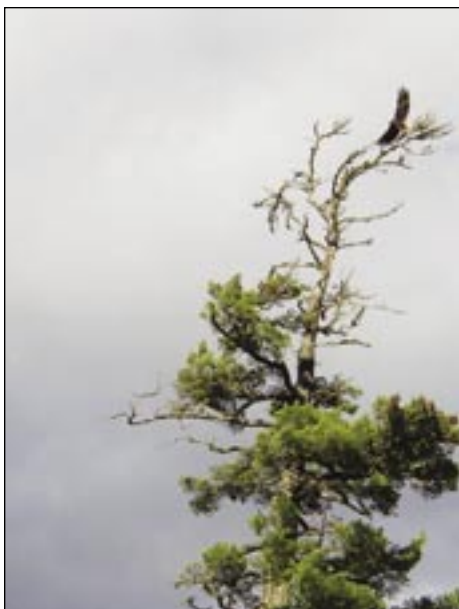
For the last 14 years I have managed a bear hunt over bait at our camps. While not a major part of our operation we try to get about 15 hunters for a week or two. These hunts are always a challenge-never a sure thing, that some would believe. It is easy to get bears to come to bait. The same as they will come to beechnuts, raspberries, apples trees, oats, garbage barrels or any other food source. They are opportunistic! But get them to come to that bait during daylight with a hunter there. The bears come in very warily and the hunter must be aware of wind, his movement and any noise. Now it becomes like any other big game hunt no matter the method! The state average on this hunt is 25%.

I do not hunt big game with dogs nor do I trap. However, I am willing to bet the farm that if you opened your eyes, ears and mind to the people that do or went with them a couple of times that you would find them both fair and ethical as well. Even if you not want to participate in these methods of game management "do not judge" others that do.



Jim Hollywood with Bullet and bear.

I am proud to learn of the strong coalition that is coming together to fight this referendum and I promise to do my part to help including putting what money I can where my mouth is. If this referendum is successful just maybe they will come for your part of the sport next. We need to stand together to protect our outdoor heritage. My sons deserve the privilege to hunt and help the state manage this resource. You can really help with a donation to the Maine Fish & Wildlife Conservation Council. Full info available at www.maine-guides.org. —Mike L



Eagle view.

Back by popular demand

The new and improved Libby Camps cookbook will once again be available this season! The first printing sold out three years ago and I have been asked many times when a re-printing would be done. The next generation, Alison and Jessica took this project on last summer, unbeknownst to me, and presented me with their tremendous effort at Christmastime. I was so impressed with all they had done.

We are completing the project and it will soon be ready to go to the printers. This version is a hardcover 3 ring binder style and will tempt



New dining room.

your taste buds with about 200 recipes, some long time favorites, some new, but all tried and true. Cookbooks are \$15. We'll gladly ship them anywhere. —Ellen

The Bear Facts

Black Bears Are Thriving in Maine

- ◆ Black bears are widely distributed with 23,000 bears statewide.
- ◆ Maine's bear population has increased 28% since 1990.
- ◆ Maine has the largest bear population in the eastern United States and one of the largest in the continental U.S.
- ◆ IFW receives about 300 nuisance bear complaints each year.

Maine Has a "State of the Art" Bear Management Program

- ◆ Maine has one of the most extensive, comprehensive, and longest standing bear studies in North America. It is based on wildlife management's most current, scientific methods.
- ◆ More than 2,000 bears have been captured and marked since 1975.
- ◆ Between 40 and 78 radio-collared bears are tracked annually; 40-50 den sites are visited each winter.
- ◆ IFW collects detailed information on bear survival, birth rates, behavior, and animal condition.



- ◆ Information gathered from this study allows IFW to adjust the bear harvest to levels that achieve bear population objectives and ensure the conservation of Maine's black bears.
- ◆ IFW has monitored bear harvests since 1969.

Regulated Hunting is the Primary Tool to Achieve Public's Goals and Objectives

- ◆ To achieve publicly derived bear population objectives, we will need to harvest about 3,500-4,000 bears annually.
- ◆ From 1999-2002, Maine's bear harvest has averaged 3,712.
- ◆ Hunting season and methods are tightly regulated, and the bear harvest is closely monitored.

- ◆ Bear harvest by methods since 1999:

Bait	78%
Hounds	10%
Trapping	2%
Incidental to deer hunting	10%
- ◆ Success rate of bear hunters is about 25% each year. By contrast, in 2003, moose hunters averaged an 80% success rate, 34% of turkey hunters were successful, and in 2002, 22% of deer hunters were successful.
- ◆ In almost all forms of hunting, hunters select sites with natural foods, and use lures, scents, decoys, and manual and electronic calls to attract their quarry. Aspects of all of these techniques are inherent in all hunting and have been a part of hunting since its beginnings.
- ◆ Other bear hunting methods used in states that have restricted the use of bait and/or dogs may be unworkable and are likely impractical in Maine because of our terrain and thick vegetation.
- ◆ Hunting bear over bait is the most effective way to hunt bear in Maine and the most effective way for IFW to achieve bear population objectives.

From Maine Fish & Wildlife website:
www.mefishwildlife.com

In a Coons' age

October 2003 brought a group back to camp whom we had not seen in 11 years, and a very touching story evolved during their visit. Back in the late 80's the Coon family: Charlie Sr., Charlie Jr. and brother Jay deer hunted many years with us. One evening Charlie Sr's hunting knife mistakenly was brushed off the dresser and into the wastebasket. This knife was very special to

Charlie, as he and his brother had had identical knives made, each with their initials on it. The knife ended up in the incinerator.

Later that fall our good friend Warren Moody, who was helping us at the time, discovered the knife in the ash {hardly touched}, cleaned it up and sharpened it. In the meantime back home, Charlie Sr.'s brother, hearing of his loss,

gave him his identical knife. When Charlie and family came the following year they gave Warren his brother's knife after Warren presented the original to them. Charlie Sr. passed away 3 years ago.

This year the Coon's returned and Charlie's knife was passed on to Charlie Jr's son; Jordan, at camp - and the tradition continues.....!

3-Day Map, Compass & GPS Course

Over the past few years, many Libby Camp guests have shown an interest in the map and compass course that I offer during the winter months out of my home.

This 3-day comprehensive course will prove invaluable in enhancing your outdoor navigational skills. The course includes instruction (days 1 & 2) in how to use and read topographical maps, how to use a compass, and using a GPS in conjunction with your map and compass skills. You'll learn how to locate points on a map, (using the UTM grid system) and apply what you have learned during our fieldwork exercise (day 3) to gain the confidence to use these methods while in the field. The course will help you make decisions in the field, based on a sound foundation. With practice you will become so proficient with the use of a map, compass and GPS that you'll never worry about getting lost again.

Matt and I are going to offer this course at the camps on August 5-9. The course will need a minimum of 9 guests; pre-registration is necessary, as well as pre-payment for the course. \$300/person (for the course), \$500/person (the cost of meals and lodging, etc) This price covers all materials, guides, etc. Arrival and departure days are yours to do as you wish. Spouses or others coming not taking the course just pay \$500.

Those interested must register and pre-pay no later than May 1, 2004. In the event that interested parties do not meet the 9-person minimum, the course will be cancelled and all payments will be refunded on May 10, 2004.

A map, compass, and GPS, along with the knowledge of how to use them, is all that you need to have that sense of complete independence and freedom of movement while in the field. This

knowledge will allow you to be more comfortable and confident in all of your outdoor activities.

If you've thought about improving your navigational skills, here's your chance. For more information or to register contact us as soon as possible.

—Gary C.



Mikes short shorts

- Hey guys, I am beginning to believe lady fishermen are more skillful! (Kate, Pam, Emily, Linda...aka princess 1st 3 fish), etc.
- How many brook trout have I seen caught and released in the last 14 years? About 15,000 and counting.
- Look out for son Danny's picture in the 2004 Thompson/Center catalog.
- My .308 continues to be a "lucky loaner" gun. 3 deer and 1 coyote this fall.
- Teenage bear hunters rule! Great job Justin and Devin. OK you too Jimmy.
- Chest waders on, float-tube flippers on, float tube drifting away and a 30 yd. dash over roots and rocks = damn I wish I had a camera John.
- How many uses are there for a little GPS? How about pitch black night, pouring rain, dead moose and a lake to cross = no problem!

Photo contest

Last year we started a contest for the best photo of the year. We had a good bunch of great photos and ended up picking two for the best, one from an outpost camp and one from the main camp.

The winner of the outpost camp contest was Rick Libbey from New Hampshire {no relation} with many great moose photos. The winner of the main camp contest was Hank Okraski from Florida with a sunset photo of the dock and plane. Both photos can be seen gracing the newsletter. Both gentlemen will get one day free at Libby's.

This year we are looking for photos in two categories: 1. photo of



sportsman with fish or game and 2. photo with one of our cabins in it {inside or out}. Both categories available at home camps and outpost camps. The best photo tells a story. **Good Luck.**

The Riverkeeper

Big fish and lots of them was how we started out at Riverkeep. The water dropped earlier than normal, but the pike and other fish really made up for the slower than normal brook trout late in the season. Our largest brook trout was taken from the Kepimets River inlet which topped **10 pounds**. The season



Kepimets 9 pounder.

ended this year on August 9th with business for the late season way off due to many perceived problems with SARS, borders, etc. Wilson, Gerard, Chris and Dave continued to give 100 % on the guiding and we got excellent reviews from Orvis on their performance. Richard and Gayle once again gave their best with excellent food and terrific service. The guides are all

looking forward to another good year in '04. There is presently 13 feet of snow in Labrador, so there should be plenty of water. The caribou herd of 150,000 is currently centered around our Kepimets Lake camp for the winter. This area is protected and no winter hunts are allowed here.

We will be opening this summer with new managers. Our rate will be slightly higher, **\$3300/week**, but frequent visitors get a \$300 discount in thanks of their support. Our camps at Riverkeep will be open for 6 rods per week from June 20-July 31 and at Kepimets in August.

AUGUST SPECIALS

Kepimets also will open this year, but will be a little different. Wilson and Gerard will be operating this camp in August by themselves. Cooking, cleaning, etc will be shared with the clients. We will provide the food, flight and licenses, but the fishermen will be expected to chip in. The cost will reflect the difference in service: **\$2200/week** with only four rods allowed. Your fishing, eating and sleeping schedule will be up to you and the guides. This a fantastic deal and won't last.



DeHavilland Beaver.

Fishing Camp For Sale

Yes, we are selling some of the Labrador camps. We have three sets of camp in Labrador and have never operated more than one at a time. This is our 12th year and time to tighten the belt a little. We have a complete inventory list and prospectus. We want to continue to send customers to Labrador since we think it is the finest fishing in the world for trophy salmon, brook trout, pike and lakers. If you know of anyone looking for an opportunity of a lifetime give us a call. It is kind of like having your own private state, with no neighbors!

2004 RESERVATION REQUEST

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone days: _____ eve: _____
Email: _____
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____
Number in Party: _____
Main Camp: _____ Package: _____
Outpost Camp: _____ Location: _____
Labrador Camp _____ Deposit (30%) check ___ credit card ___ (Master Card, Visa, Discover)
Credit Card # _____ Name on card: _____ Exp. _____

Please mail to address on reverse. Thanks, see you soon. We will send out confirmation!

2004 RATES

The following rates will be in place for 2004. We as always will do all we can to make them the best deal there is for a vacation. Please let us know if there are any problems with service, equipment, food or accommodations.

Fishing:

■ **Pkg #1:** \$135/person/day d.o.; \$155/day single. Includes private lakeside log cabin with bath, boats & motors, canoes, kayaks, and Ellen's meals.

■ **Pkg#2:** \$180/person/day d.o.; \$230/day single. Includes all of #1 plus the use of outpost cabins if desired and seaplane fly outs every other day to remote ponds, rivers or trails.

■ **Pkg#3:** \$265/person/day d.o.; \$390/day single. Includes all of above plus full guide service.

■ **7-Day trips:** Deduct \$100/person off any package. Large groups can be quoted.

Hunting:

Pat'ridge, woodcock & ducks:

■ **Pkg#1:** \$125/person/day d.o.; \$140/day single. Includes cabin and meals.

■ **Pkg#2:** \$210/person/day d.o.; \$300/day single. Includes all of above plus services of a full time guide. Bird dogs are an additional \$75/day.

Deer/Moose: Sunday to Sunday only.

■ **Pkg#1:** \$775/person/week d.o.; \$975/week single. Includes cabin, meals and that advice again.

■ **Pkg#2:** \$1300/person/week d.o.; \$1900/week single. Includes all of above plus a full time guide for 6 days.

Bear: Sunday to Sunday only.

■ August 29-Sept. 12; \$1500/week/man d.o. \$1800/week single. Includes meals, private cabin with bath, guide for every 4 men, boats for fishing. Everything except licenses and taxidermy. Big game license \$94, bear tag \$65.

■ August 31-September 7; \$900/man/week triple occupancy; \$1300/man/week d.o.; \$2500/week single. Includes outpost cabin and guide.

Chandler Pond, River Camp and Mooseleuk Stream only.

Seasons:

■ **Fishing:** All Waters: May-September 30. Some ponds and lakes in October.

■ **Hunting:** Small game October and November.

■ **Bear:** August 30-November 27.

■ **Deer bow:** October. Deer rifle: November 1-27.

■ **Moose:** September 26-Oct. 2 & October 11-16 (limited to lottery)

Out camps:

For rates visit: www.libbycamps.com

New outpost video available \$10. (explains what it is like at all cabins)



Ashland, ME 04732

PO Box 810

Libby
CAMPS

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