

2014 Long-Line Release

LIBBY CAMP

PO Box 810 • Ashland, ME 04732

207-435-8274

matt@libbycamps.com

www.libbycamps.com

Matt J. & Jess Libby • Matt & Ellen Libby



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ENDORSED FLY-FISHING
WINGSHOOTING LODGE

Castings from Maine

You may notice the writing style of this article might be a bit different than it has been in the past. Ok, I'll end the suspense, it isn't the same writer. For as long as I can remember (my wife may argue that isn't very long), Matt Libby the elder has been writing the opening article for the newsletter. As they say, the torch has been passed. I don't remember anything being said in the buyout agreement about having to write this article. We may have had to make other arrangements. In August of 2009, Jess and I purchased half of Libby Camps from Matt and Ellen. In May of this past year, we were able to complete the purchase of the other half of the business as well as the cabins and the land they sit on. We were extremely excited to take on this new and daunting task of running a sporting camp. For years, Jess and I have done the work, interacted with the customers and dealt with employees. We figured, "how hard could this be, we've been doing it for years." How wrong could we be? The things that need to be done to run a small business behind the scenes are just mind boggling, and those things used to just get done, without us ever knowing it happened. After about the fourth threatening letter from one government agency or the other, we knew we needed some help to get our act together. With Ellen guiding us, we turned it around and got most things filed, pretty close to when they were supposed to be. I don't think the government is going to put out a mob hit on us now. A BIG thanks goes out to Matt and Ellen for providing the guidance for us to make it through our first season of ownership!

Well, aside from our big purchase, we had an amazing season at Libby's with some of our favorite repeats and some great new guests. The spring/summer season was highlighted by one thing, rain, rain and more rain. At ice-out, Millinocket Lake was as high as it gets with water right up into the trees. Due to hydro-electric projects further downstream, the water in the lake could not be dropped, so we dealt with high water throughout the year. The heavy rain and high water wreaked havoc on our spring river fishing. Rivers were blown right out for most of May and June and completely unfishable. Fortunately, the pond fishing was better than ever and picked up the slack. The high, cold water is very beneficial for the health of Brook Trout, a true cold water species. This means that the fish were not stressed and fish were able to thrive throughout the summer. The bountiful water did allow us to have some of the best fall river fishing we have seen. The trophy spawning Brook Trout and Landlocked Salmon flocked to the rivers in early September, giving the clients some great chances at large fish in heavy current. As you read on through the newsletter, you will find a common theme of great experiences. These were made possible by a great staff and a tremendous group of professional guides. However, it is pretty easy with the clients we have. We are so lucky to be able to cater to some of the greatest people on earth.



*Tight Lines,
Matt J*

Awards from 2013 and News

2013 was very exciting at Libby Camps. In April, we learned that for the second year in a row we were finalists for Orvis Fly Fishing Lodge of the Year. We take great pride in being involved in the Orvis endorsement program and have an enormous amount of respect for the Orvis family and the other lodges that we have become friends with during our years in the program. This award has much to do with customer feedback to the Orvis Company from great customer service received and quality of the experience.



Also in April the annual Maine Professional Guides Association banquet provided quite the surprise. I had gotten wind of the award that was going to be given, so made a point to have as many of our guides and family at the event as possible.

Matt P. Libby was awarded the Wiggie Robinson Legendary Guide Award with 24 of us all there to celebrate with him. The award is given to a guide who has been guiding for at least 20 years, has done volunteer community work in the outdoors and has been active on boards or committees that promote the importance of Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.



In early spring, our niece Laurelai was a contestant in the Moose calling contest in Augusta. She did so well that she advanced to the finals in Greenville in June. The Maine moose drawing was located in Greenville and she was part of the calling competition. She did a wonderful job and was considered the best dressed in her moose print dress complete with earrings and made us all proud. Laurelai's participation sparked the moose-calling committee to add a youth category to the competition. She is one of the finalists for the June contest. At 4, she is already making waves.

In June, we received a phone call from the managing editor of Down East Magazine, Kathleen Fluery, who had visited us the prior winter. She is now editor-in-chief of Down East. She informed us that we were part of the winners in the Down East "Best of Maine" edition, and wanted us to come to Portland to receive the award. After we stopped jumping up and down and calling everyone we knew, Matt J and I made the trip at the end of June down to the big city of Portland to accept the award, and had a great night out meeting new people. The award was titled "Best of Maine Sporting Camp Foodies."

Once again we want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Maine Professional Guides Association Super Raffle. Between the camp and the guides, we raised \$9,975 for the association and sold 5 out of the 9 winning tickets. Congratulations go out to winners Walter Granstra, Mike Nolan, Bob Fitzpatrick, Scott Mackie, and Jeff Bradach. We also want to thank you for supporting our local snowmobile club by purchasing raffle tickets from the Maine Snowmobile Association and our club Libby Pinnacle SnoRiders.



About a year and a half ago, I went to my first Maine Sporting Camp Association meeting because Matt and Ellen suggested I start getting involved. Well as luck would have it, I was voted in as Vice President! Go figure, but I have to say, I have been working with some great camp owners and we are getting the association back up and running. I have learned a lot, and keep learning more each day. *Jess*



It Looked Trout Worthy

As a fly tier, I'm always trying to improve a pattern or invent a new one. I'm pretty happy with the existing fly patterns currently in my fly boxes. I will, however, attempt to transform some blend of feather and fur to create a pattern that will be the next Gray Ghost or Adams or some

other equally time-proven favorite.

Winter months are when I do the bulk of my tying and usually any new patterns I dream up happen between November and April. When ice-out finally arrives and the rivers and streams have dropped back to fishable levels, I'll try out some new fly that, back in February, looked like an absolute killer. However, in the sunlight of early May, it seems to be lacking.

Last May my son and I were fishing a remote northern pond. The opportunity to try my new fly was too good to pass up. With high spirits, the fruit of my vise was tied on and quickly cast out. Oh, it looked trout worthy, slowly bobbing on the still surface of this pretty little pond. I watched eagerly for the behemoth below the waves to come and, with a mighty splash, engulf this sparkling, award-winning mixture of feather and fur. The anticipation of the forthcoming strike diminished as my son would rudely announce yet another fish on. He held up brookie after brookie for me to admire. I, in turn, would point



to how well my newest creation floated, seemingly impossible to sink. Eventually he reeled in and muttered some lame comment like "my arm hurts." Now that he wasn't disturbing the water from trout hitting his fly, I could concentrate on proving how effective my fly was. All the heart pounding stress of staring at this stupid waste of feather and fur started to show; a cigar to calm my fizzled nerves seemed in order. As I was lighting my cigar, the rod dipped and bobbed just enough to cause the fly to twitch. As soon as it moved, a big brookie slammed it. I released the fish and recast the fly. Stooping down, I relit my cigar and again as the fly twitched a trout took it neatly under the surface. Being of contemplative nature, it soon dawned on me, these trout like cigar smoke!

Jeff Labree



Got Big Fish?

The 2013 fishing season started fast, stayed good, and ended fast! Lots of nice fish were landed early in the season with the help of some great BWO hatches. Steve and Bill Keyser, fishing out of Echo Lake camp in early May, had some of their best fishing ever with several nice brookies from 16"-20" caught and released. Most of these fish were caught on top with a size 16 BWO! Doesn't get much better than that!

From the middle of May into the beginning of June the hatches started to intensify and the brookies kept pace. Walt and Gwen Kimball had a day to remember on one of our local ponds with fish sipping flies off the surface for hours. Again, fish to 16" were caught and released.

Just a few days later Bob and Theresa Proctor were in the right place with the right weather and caught brookies as fast as you possibly could! A few days after that, Walt Granstra and his grandson Ben Wells nailed the brookies with streamers on one of their favorite ponds.

As you can tell the spring fishing was fantastic, but what was great was it hardly slowed down during summer. You had to fish with sinking lines more often, but the fish could be had. In August when the caddis hatches picked up, Eric, Craig, and Austin Swartz caught fish all day using the Goddard caddis stripped fast on top. For those of you who have never fished anything fast on top, you simply have to try it! Fishing while stripping something fast on top invites some absolutely smashing strikes by the brookies.

As we headed into September fishing we received some nice rain which enticed the brookies into action, especially in the moving waters we fish. Salmon also moved into the rivers with some fish over 20" being landed. Marty and Nancy Thouvenell from way out in California had a day they won't soon forget. It wasn't all day action, but for a couple of hours they found some nice brookies up to 20" that were quite obliging. Not to be outdone, Fred Meine and his son Tripp, with just a few days left in the season, had a day where they landed 20" salmon and 18" brookies from a local river. So, as you can tell, "2013" fishing season was one to remember. The good news is I bet "2014" is going to have a chance to be even better!

Remember, "Strip it Fast."

Rick



Bear by Chuck

Up here in Northern Maine, the Bear population is doing extremely well due to the proper management from our Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologists. The traditional Bear hunt may be lost this November if the Humane Society of the United States has its way. You see, this organization and others that support it want to end this tradition and are bringing this issue to ballot. Libby Camps would survive the loss, but many other lodges that depend on this renewable resource would probably close their doors. Not only would this affect sporting camp owners, but the small mom and pop stores, gas stations, motels, guides and the State itself would greatly be affected. So please get out and vote on this important issue.

Alright, enough of the politics. There are so many factors that influence a successful hunt. Here at Libby's, we start preparing very early in the summer. Roads need to be cleared, trails cut out, stands and blinds erected, and trail cameras installed. We try to check our sites every other day for activity. Just before the season starts, we grade each site so we can give our clients the best opportunity. When on stand, being quiet and motionless are key factors. Bears are extremely wary, elusive and shy. The slightest movement or noise will spoil your opportunity for one of these black ghosts. Some of our sites have multiple bears visiting, so be patient. The largest bear last year was over 400 lbs., but you never know what might happen while on stand. One of our hunters had a visit from a sow and two cubs. This is always a nice sight to see except when one of the cubs either gets curious or scared. One of the cubs was frightened and climbed the tree next to the hunter. Before you know it, the cub and the hunter were eye to eye and just a few feet apart. The cub started calling for mom. When I arrived to pick up the hunter, the sow was circling under the tree stand with the cub and the hunter both up the tree yelling for help. I quickly made my way in with my 44 mag ready for business and scared the mother bear off. After a little coaxing I was able to get the hunter out of the stand. He was a bit shook up and his eyes looked like two peeled onions in a cow flap. Numerous other critters are often seen, including moose, marten, grouse and squirrels just to name a few. Even if you don't hunt, bring your camera and enjoy a close wildlife encounter. I also invite anyone to tag along with me for a day. I promise that I will not work you too hard.

Chuck



Scott's Story

We were blessed with another great grouse season this past year at Libby's. The bird numbers were good with some days a little better than others, but overall a pretty decent season considering the wet spring and early summer we experienced. Our many treks over the summer to remote fishing destinations had us observing broods of young grouse. We were a little disheartened to see smaller broods this past summer and feared a slower season. While it was just a bit off from the last couple of bumper years we experienced, when opening day came, finding limit opportunities for our guests was pretty common.



While good bird hunting can take place as close as the driveway at camp, occasionally we like to venture off a little sometimes to explore some new territory. This past season had a couple of us spending a little more driving time to get into some coverts that had seen little pressure. One problem with a 45 minute drive to a covert can be getting there when you end up stopping to chase road birds up every 5 minutes! One such morning, I had a young man who was with his dad for his very first grouse hunt. On our way to a spot that held high possibilities, we saw a nice grouse dart across the gravel road into the brush off the side. We put down a flushing lab to put the bird up and as planned, the grouse took to wing and headed for a nearby tree. The grouse fell to a well-placed shot and after making the gun safe, engaging in a few high fives, we sent the dog in for the retrieve. While we all celebrated the young man's first bird, we should have stayed ready as the lab starting spinning around on his nose and flushed up four more grouse on his way to the retrieve!

Speaking of dogs, if you truly enjoy hunting behind a well-trained, seasoned dog, you'll love hunting with some of our crew. After several years with lots of birds, the young dogs have had some great exposure to the birds and nothing builds a great dog like lots of bird exposure and good training. The famous Libby Brittans as well as Labs, English Setters, Springers and Cockers belonging to our guides, offer quite a variety of different hunting styles. With a number of young dogs in our crew, we are looking forward to many great years ahead.

Here at Libby's, a great day is far more than just how many birds are bagged. I don't think I remember an October where we had such great weather. I think I dug out my rain suit one whole day with it sitting on standby in the back of the truck for the remainder of the season. Sunny skies, beautiful autumn colors and crisp morning air had many of us wanting to skip breakfast to get out quickly; however, the buttermilk pancakes had a tendency to keep us tight to breakfast table! Covering a few miles a day on foot almost always produces interesting finds in the woods. Last season, guides and guests found a bunch of nice moose sheds which is quite a prize to many. To my clients that watched me try to grab the very nice bee hive prior to the bees vacating it, I'll bet you've never seen a guide run that fast before!!!!

Scott



Winter 2014

With one winter season under our belt, we figured out a few things needed to change. One item on our agenda was to insulate the dining room roof to prevent ice buildup and water flowage in the front wall. Second on the list was to improve the water line situation so we wouldn't have frozen pipes when the temperature was lower than negative 10 and the wind was whipping off the lake.

We took on a big project this summer and put an addition on to the back of the lodge with more living space, new laundry room, bigger bathroom, and a basement. We then insulated the lodge and put new metal roofing on the whole building. We also prepared pipes and insulated water boxes for 3 of the guest cabins to have full bathrooms in the winter. These improvements helped tremendously with the exceptionally cold winter we had this year.

Our opening weekend was once again our annual ice cutting weekend. We always do this on the third weekend in January. We thought going into the weekend that we would be lacking help, with most of the regulars from Matt P's college days not able to make it. However, with a few regulars and a bunch of new people, we were able to get it done really quickly.

Another thing that made our lives easier was the new groomer that our snowmobile club purchased. It is a Pisten Bully 240D which was a whole lot easier than grooming with a snowmobile. A big thanks to Jeff Butterfield for helping us keep it running throughout the winter.

Matt did work for Sugarloaf again this year, but he got done around February 1st in order to come up and help run camp. Overall, we had a great winter season catering to snowmobilers and ice fishermen. Winter is the only time of year that we are open to the public for a stop in lunch and that's the hard part. We never knew if we were going to have 6 people or 105 people for lunch! It's a different frame of mind all together, and we hope to get used to that. We did have more overnight guests this winter as well, and we expect to have more next year. We really enjoyed getting to know new friends and the familiar faces from last year. Thank you to everyone who helped/worked throughout the winter, all the support we got from surrounding businesses, and most importantly to all the guests who make it possible and fun!

Jess



Libby Outposts

2013 brought many changes to the Libby outpost camps since Ellen and I had more time to tend to them. We did not sell these since we didn't see ourselves retired.....yet. We did several upgrades, mostly due to Ellen spending more time there with me and wanting more comfortable kitchens, making the cabins have her signature on them. Our name is Libby Camps Outposts and can be found on

www.libbyoutposts.com. The corporate name is Allie Libby & Sons which came from my Dad's name and his 4 boys who helped us grow the business. The ownership has not changed on these but the name has to make it easier. Our mailing address is 197 Haystack Road, Castle Hill, ME 04757.

Upgrades for last summer and this winter include: New cupboards for Clear Lake and Echo Lake; new gas stoves for Lower Hudson, the Chandlers and Echo Lake; new tables and chairs for Chandler East, #1 Camp and River Camp. New windows and new stove were installed in the sleeping cabin on Clear Lake. This year will bring new roofs and windows to several cabins as well. Feel free to make suggestions on upgrades. Ellen and I have been snowmobiling to most cabins to get wood into them this winter. The sledding has been great and a welcome change for us. We have trails to get to all of the outposts from the main lodge now. Some of them are great winter destinations for do-it-yourself skiers, sledders and ice-fishermen.

Rates have not changed this year again, but there is a lease surcharge of \$25/day added to Mooseleuk Lake just as we put on Clear Lake last year. Lease rates have increased on the average of 8% per year, which most likely means a rate increase for 2015 on all cabins. We really appreciate those of you who take care of these cabins as if they were your own. That has helped us keep the rates low and our work load manageable. Keep in mind that during prime time most cabins book for next year when the party leaves, so plan ahead so as not to be disappointed. God Bless you all.

Matt & Ellen.



2-3 nights	4-nights or more
# of People	
1 @ \$125/night	\$100/night
2 @ \$75/night/person	\$60/night/person
3 @ \$60/night/person	\$45/night/person
4 @ \$50/night/person	\$38/night/person
5 @ \$45/night/person	\$35/night/person
6 @ \$42/night/person	\$32/night/person
7 @ \$40/night/person	\$30/night/person



Moose

All season long, Matt P, Scott and I were in the airplanes just about every day. Whenever we could, we were looking for trophy Moose. The one common theme that came back was where are the huge Moose? Moose were everywhere you looked, but the big boys just did not seem to want to show themselves. Just before the season started and the air started to cool down, the big Moose began to show up. It became a game of which trophy to look for first. First thing Monday morning, Duke and Laura were able to connect on a massive Bull with Toby. The Moose was a ways off the road, so Laura packed most of it out while Toby and Duke took care of the quartering. The next day, Chuck was able to call out a beauty right to the edge of the road for father/daughter team Chip and Krystal. A great shot by Krystal sealed the deal. Father/son team Brud and Luke took a bit longer. The



entire week was filled with excitement and great opportunities, but we just couldn't get the big guy we were looking for. To explain each and every Moose interaction we had throughout the week would take up way more newsletter space than I have been allotted. Ask to see the video one day when you are at camp. Carter Davidson does an amazing job! We decided to stay close to camp for this hunt and had three trophy bulls within easy gun range. However, the kicker was we were trying to harvest a bull with a bow and arrow. This makes it a bit more difficult. On Friday, we decided to bring a rifle along and Brud made a great shot on a bull in the water at 85 yards. I had been involved with a few Moose extractions in the water, but never one that we pulled the Moose right up onto the beach in front of the lodge. It was a great experience with a perfect sunset to end it.

Matt J

How About Those “Big Bucks”

Yes the deer numbers are not at their highest, but if you are looking for that buck of a lifetime, he is still around. Trail cameras don't lie! More bucks, including those big monsters were seen in person and on trail cameras this year, than the guides at Libby's have seen in quite some time.

Between loss of habitat, coyote predation, harsh winters, and the fact that it is a “bucks only” harvest, it's no wonder the sightings of big bucks are down. The deer keep bouncing back every time we have an easy winter. You can tell we are headed into an upswing just by the younger bucks that were taken and passed on this past November. Several nice bucks from 140 lbs. to 170 lbs. were harvested by our hunters. Hopefully this winter remains reasonable, letting the deer have a better chance of survival. Whatever the outcome of our winter, I'm sure there will be some nice bucks working the “Big Woods” next November. And some lucky hunter will get his chance.

Speaking of lucky hunters, congratulations goes out to Matt Hoss for shooting the biggest buck last year. The 9-pointer weighed in at 165 lbs. It was his biggest buck yet, and he was one happy hunter to say the least. He was even happier after he found out it qualified him for a free trip. For those of you who might not know, Libby's offers a free trip if you harvest the heaviest buck of the year.

*Shoot Straight My Friends,
Rick*

Deer Hunting the North Woods: The Ultimate Challenge

It has been a slow but steady recovery since 2007 when we lost 70% of our deer herd due to the 200 inches of snow in Northern Maine. I am happy to say that we are on a very nice comeback. I saw more deer sign and got more deer pictures, especially bucks, on my cameras this year than I have seen since '07.

A successful hunt depends on many things, luck included. First of all the guides here at Libby's are experienced, know the woods and are dedicated. They are also some of the nicest guys you will ever meet. We want you to get that trophy but also to experience the joys of just being in the great north woods. Moose, partridge, coyotes, marten, owls, beautiful sunsets, Jess's great cooking or whatever you might like, it's all here. As far as the deer hunt goes I scout whenever possible with deer cameras, but mostly with my feet on the ground. I would be the first to admit that I am a bit obsessed when it comes to deer hunting and finding the "right" spots. I want you to have the best chance possible, however many factors affect your hunt; your patience, hunting ability, shooting ability, etc., as well as weather conditions, moon, are they feeding at night, have they hooked up with a doe and is it cold enough to get them moving. This is all a challenge. My passion is tracking on snow and what a difference that can make.

This year here at Libby's we had a nice successful season. Deer were seen, deer were shot and deer were left to grow in hopes of getting a bigger one. I guided three hunters, one the second week and two the third week. I had John and Jim the third week of the season and they shot two nice deer that were very healthy, big-bodied deer. John shot his on his way to his stand, first deer in 30 years and first with his new gun. His brother Jim shot one the next day sitting on the stand John was to sit on the prior day. One thing that caught my attention was that both deer were shot in the same area, but neither deer were ones I had pictures of on my game cams that were set up there. Great for next season as those bucks are still there.

A little story about Jim's deer. Jim had just got to the ground blind and leaned his gun against a tree. He sat down and poured a cup of coffee. He looked up and the deer was coming right at him. He told me later he got lazy and put scent beside him instead of down on the trail where it was supposed to go and the deer had his nose up following the scent looking right him. He had to wait until the deer looked elsewhere to set his cup down, pick the gun up and shoot 15 yards. It all worked out and he was rewarded with a nice buck. Whose buck is bigger is still up for discussion... brothers!!!

They went home Friday so I decided Saturday morning to pick up my ground blinds. I hunted my way in to one, and as I looked off to my right, I spotted a buck paralleling me. He was headed right to where my ground blind was. He did not make it. Three deer in three days is not bad for the north woods. Good hunting and good luck.

Terry



From the Breadboard

My role changed drastically in 2013, and I am good with that. Actually it was my idea. When it was determined that Matt and Jess were going to complete the sale of Libby Camps five years early, the question became, 'What are you going to do now?' That question was in my mind and everyone else's too. To me, the best plan was to play up the grandmother role. Kayla was due to start school in the fall, and if she had to be apart from her parents, who better to be taking care of her than me. I know, that's a tad egotistical, but that's how I am. In late August, Kayla, Parker and I started out on our new adventure. Kayla had an advantage. Her kindergarten teacher is my great friend Kim, who years ago kept our kids during the school year when Matt P and I had to be at camp. Life comes full circle wouldn't you say?

Kayla loves school, which is not surprising to me. She is quite inquisitive, catches on quickly and has wanted to read for some time now. I just love to see the look in her eyes when she catches on – must be my elementary education background kicking in. Just as our daughter Alison did when she started school, Kayla comes home wanting to teach Parker everything she learned that day. It is so much fun to watch. Perhaps there is a teaching career in Kayla's future? I was so proud when Kayla cut her hair for the first time (it was okayed by the parents!) and was able to send her braid to help kids with cancer who have lost their hair. She is growing it out now so maybe she will do that good deed again?

Parker will get his own chance at school this fall when he enters Pre-K. We had such fun together last fall. He being the second child, I hadn't had the one-on-one time with him that I did with Kayla or Laurelai, and I tried to make up for that. He was my right-hand man as we did errands for his folks, he was a remarkably good help when we changed over an outpost cabin while Kayla was in school and we had fun doing all of that. We picked apples and made applesauce, we played with lots of trucks, cars, planes, anything that he could make a sound to make it go. Vroom, vroom!

Laurelai joined us on occasion when her dad was guiding at camp. Two 3-year-olds and a five-year-old with Nana makes for one busy household. I was grateful for the time Matt P was in town with us, not to mention the fact that I missed him. This was unusual for us to be apart for an extended time. Laurelai is an independent young gal. She is in charge of taking care of 3 dogs. She puts on a lively music show for all her stuffed animals. Just like rock music, I can only catch a word or two that I recognize, but it is loud! She beats me every time in Candy Land. How can that be? The game must be rigged! Laurelai is in pre-school now, and you'll read about her elsewhere in this newsletter too.

I am so pleased with Matt and Jess' decision to become sole owners of Libby Camps. They are about 10 years older than Matt P and I were when we bought Elsie out in 1977. I try to compare myself to Elsie, Matt's mother, but there is no comparison. When Matt's father died in 1959 she was left with 4 sons, a pile of bills and a dream. She never let the dream fade. Elsie kept the dream alive in all of her kids; Matt was the one to take over, with me, a girl who had no idea what she was doing except following her husband's vision. I grew to love the life we had chosen, and as life changes I still do! With our new home just down the beach we can be in our favorite place on earth for many years to come. Life is grand! God bless you all!



Recipes

Our last cookbook was sold in the fall, so that means a new one is currently being worked on. We hope to have it ready for Spring/Summer, but no guarantees. These are some favorite recipes from this past winter season.

Blonde Brownies

2 cups brown sugar
1 cup softened butter
2 eggs
2 tsps vanilla extract
2 cups flour
1 tsp salt
2/3 cups chocolate chips, white chips,
and peanut butter chips

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 10x15 inch pan. Stir together brown sugar and butter in a bowl. Beat in the eggs and vanilla until smooth. Add flour and salt, beating just until blended. Stir in all 3 kinds of chips. Spread in the pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the top is just a little brown.

Bluebarb Pie

Filling:

1 1/2 cups sugar
3 TBLS quick-cooking tapioca
1/4 tsp salt
4 cups sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
1 TBLS butter



Use homemade pie crust for top and bottoms of the pie. Mix the filling ingredients together except for the butter. Put Filling in the bottom pie crust and dab the butter over the top. Cover with top crust and fold edges around the pie. Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes then bring the temperature down to 350 for 45 minutes.

NEW FOR 2014 Liquor License

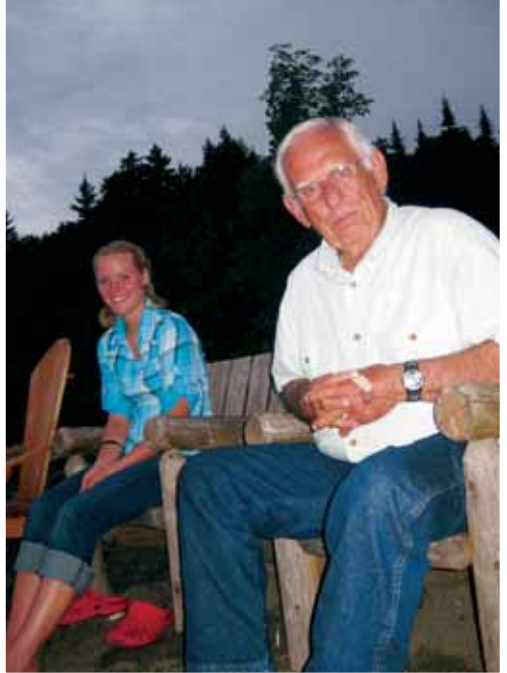
New for 2014, we will be offering a selection of beer and wine in the dining room. Guests will still be able to enjoy their own favorite adult beverage in the cabin, but we will not be able to allow outside alcohol to be brought into the lodge. Feel free to let us know well ahead of time if you have a particular beer or wine that you would like available for your meals.



Good Bye Joe

For those of you who were fortunate to have met Joe Nimmer over the last 15 or 20 years, I hope you consider yourselves lucky, we sure do. I am sorry to tell you that he died in July of 2013 after a valiant battle with cancer. He approached his illness the same way he approached any obstacle he encountered in his life. Joe loved to learn, and that should be an inspiration to all of us to be continually striving to improve ourselves. Joe decided he wanted to become a Registered Maine Guide. So he did. Joe read about Libby Camps and came to visit us, with his future plans mapped out, including guiding at Libby's. Matt P has always maintained that you can teach anything except attitude, and Joe had the attitude we were looking for, so it was welcome aboard for 'ole Joe', as he liked to be called. Over the years that Joe was with us, there were many 'Joe-isms', as we named them - one of our favorites that he had learned after coming to 'The County' went something like this - after a nice meal Joe would say 'I enjoyed the he!! from that!' Well, Joe, we enjoyed the he!! from knowing you! Save a spot for us!

There were other friends we sadly said good-bye to, for now. We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the families of Dan Grosso, Jon Hall, Andre DeCasteja, Walter Bennett, Karleigh Baumann, and Jack Henshaw.



Ellen and I began our Libby Camp story in 1976 when we negotiated with Mom, Elsie Gibson, to buy her out during our senior year of college. After a whirlwind winter of getting married, moving off campus and beginning to learn about advertising, grocery buying, cooking and letter writing for the camps we moved into Libby Camps one day after graduation on May 21st, 1977 and have not left. This year, 2014 can be marked as the apex of our life's story. We have sold the business to son Matt and his wife, Jess and as promised when negotiating with them, we did not go anywhere....well, maybe a few hundred yards down the beach. We still work at camp, flying, cooking, grand parenting, and also taking care of the out-post camps. It continues to be great to see all of our friends who have come for years and let Matt and Jess make all the hard decisions and do the dirty work that was getting less exciting.



I can't help but reflect on the history of the camps and after talking with my Mom (95 years young) yesterday, it seems that the camps just cannot get out of our blood. She and her sister Velma started working for Uncle Will Libby in the early 30's when it was a two day canoe trip up the river. When going to camp you were "going up River." "When going to town you were "going to the Clearings". The two young sisters married the two Libby Boys, Allie and Charlie. Allie and Elsie ended up running the camps until Allie, Dad, died in 1959. Mom ran it alone until remarrying in '69. Velma passed away last year at the age of 96. Many of you have met Velma's daughter, Etta while she has been working at camp. Another chapter closed but a great legacy lives on.

Another link in this story and only a bit out of the time line is the Hawkins link. Move back into the 30's again and read about Will Libby and Ike Libby losing the largest set of camps in Maine due to death, family issues, probate and bad record keeping. The camps, 50 strong in 3 counties, were reduced to 3 little cabins at our present location in 1938. Most of the historical "stuff" was shipped to the Libby Hotel in Oxbow and to the old homestead in Newfield, Maine. In 2007 enter as a new customer, Elsa Hawkins, a direct descendant of my great grandfather, CC Libby, the founder of Libby Camps. My grandfather and her grandmother were siblings. She and her sister Alice had inherited much of the "stuff" from the 30's and graciously offered to return lots of it to its original home. Some of these items brought tears to our eyes, items such as the original guest log book from CC Libby dating from 1893, an original 20' White Canoe, mounted loon, hawks and brook trout, furniture and most importantly old record keeping and letters from the early 1900's. Elsa has returned each year since with her crew from Spain and other corners of the world.

Ellen and I are still accepting invitations to begin our next chapter in our little book of life. We both like to give back to the world which has been so good to us. Mission trips to Haiti and Alaska are in the future.

LIBBY CAMPS

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