

2015 Long-Line Release

LIBBY CAMPS



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Matt J. & Jess Libby

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ENDORSED FLY-FISHING
WINGSHOOTING LODGE

Paul Cyr Photo

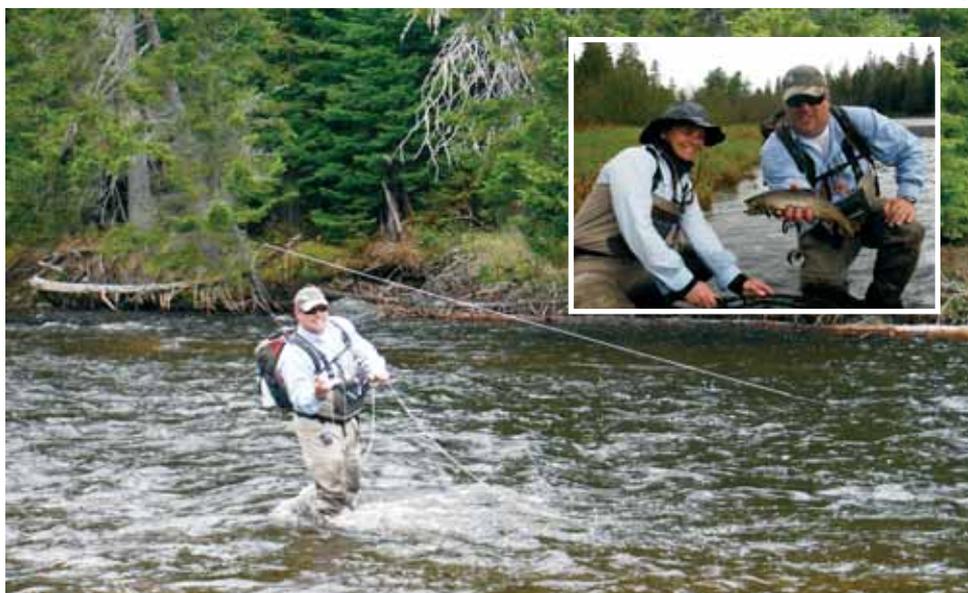
Castings from Maine

How do you quantify a good year? Everyone always asks me, "How was your year?" Do I answer with, we were really busy, the fishing was great, the hunting was great, maybe there was lots of snow? I think the two most important ways to quantify a good year, at least for me, are the quality of the people you share your life with and the progress made as a person and in business. If we are measuring by the first, we had a fantastic year. Besides our great family, our extended camp family is some of the greatest people on earth to share our life with. Kasey, Darren, Suzie, Rose, Serena, Diana, Bethany, Chuck, Rick, Jeff L, Toby, Scott, Terry, Mike, Tim, Bob, Don, Jeff B., Craig, Dave, George, especially Matt and Ellen (aka Mom and Dad), and everyone else, thanks for all the laughs, hard work, and guidance that made this year truly great. We couldn't have done anything without you guys and Libby Camps is what it is today because of the people we have around us.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Don Bragdon, our resident dream-maker/carpenter. Don has been working on a bunch of carpentry projects in the cabins from new roofs to complete bathroom rebuilds, which brings me to number 2, progress. We'll stick to Libby Camps progress for now, since personal progress is a work in progress. Besides all the projects Don has been working on, we took on building a new guest cabin this year. For over 100 years, Libby Camps was located on leased land, so many of the buildings were built with the thought that we may be kicked off at some point. When Matt and Ellen organized the buying of the land, we became much more secure. With this in mind, the new cabin will be a little more modern. It will have a full basement, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a small kitchen and living room area. The hope is to keep all the rustic charm of our 100 year old log cabins, with some more modern conveniences. Don is the general contractor on this one and taking care of everything that we can't think of. Local log builder, Bruce Stadig from Oxbow is doing the log work for the cabin.

Speaking of new additions, we welcomed a new baby girl to the family in late November. Charley Anne is a happy baby and she can't wait to start splitting some wood. Hopefully Charley will grow up to be as blessed as we are to share our beautiful corner of the world with all of you. Our customers and employees make our life so great. I couldn't imagine doing anything else and not being able to meet all these extraordinary people. Hope to see you this year, and if not, get outside!

Matt J



From the COO....K

Our 2014 season will always be remembered in my mind. People always ask us, "Don't you think you have enough going on?" Welllll..... YES, we had a lot going on.

We decided it was time to build our new house in Mapleton and move from our Sugarloaf house. This allowed us to be closer to camp in the off season and closer to the kids going to school. We hired contractor Steve St. Peter and his son Erik from Mapleton to build the house, and they did a wonderful job in a short amount of time. The house was started in July and finished in November. They were under some pressure to be done by the end of November because there was a baby coming..... Which leads me to my next topic.

Baby girl Charley Anne Libby was born November 26th in Presque Isle, Maine, weighing 6lbs 10oz. From the time we found out we were pregnant till the end of the pregnancy, baby girl was giving us trouble. It was a stressful season to say the least. We want to thank our wonderful staff, guides, family and guests for all the help and prayers through it all. She was born happy and healthy and has fit into our family and camp life perfect. Kayla and Parker love their baby sister, and our winter season went smooth with her swinging near the wood stove through the lunch rushes.

All season we tried to think of a girl's name that Matt and I could agree on, that was not an easy task. Finally with only hours till surgery, we agreed on Charley Anne. Charley you say? Well, Charles Cushing Libby, also known as C.C. Libby, was Matt's great-great-grandfather who with his wife Melissa started Libby Camps in 1890. Matt's Grandfather Allie, who ran Libby's from 1938-1959, had an only brother and guide who was also Charles. Charles' daughter was Etta, who has worked for Libby's the last few years as well. With the first name nailed down, we had to find a middle name. We decided to go to the other side of the family and use Jess's grandmother Christy's middle name Anne. And now you know the rest of the story.

Kayla is now 7 years old and in 1st grade. She loves baking, swimming, coloring and doing crafts. Parker is now 5 years old and in Pre-K. He loves riding snowmobiles, seaplanes, 4 wheelers, fishing, and playing with trucks. Our family of 5 and generation 6 is complete and we couldn't be happier.

Libby's Cookbook

Over the years Libby's has produced 2 cookbooks, and this year we are hoping to get our 3rd one published. This new one will have many of the new recipes we have been using and all the old ones as well. Some have been passed down for many generations. Stay tuned, and get your copy early!



Jess

Libby Camps 125th Year Celebration

125 years and 5 generations in the same family is something to celebrate. Starting in 1890 with C.C. and Melissa and the Libby Hotel in Oxbow with a few camps in the Allagash, then passed on to sons Will & Ike (and his wife Lillian) and their buying out Atkins Camps (now over 50 camps then down to 3 camps due to death and probate). In 1938, Ike's son Allie and wife Elsie took over adding new cabins and a seaplane. Elsie then passed the torch to son Matt and wife Ellen in '77 adding 7 outcamps and more cabins and finally to son Matt and Jess in '09 (yep all Libby's). So far we have survived two world wars, the great depression, 23 presidents and 9/11. We have changed with the first car, the first outboard, the first chainsaw, the first generator and the first seaplane.

Join us for some fun this summer.



July 5th – Seaplane Fly In and Lunch

Fly your plane in for competitions or just come to watch the planes!

July 6-11 – Kids Week

Kids 20 years of age and under stay free with 2 paying adults. Games and competitions will be going on all week.

July 11th – 125th Year Celebration Lunch

Open to the public to join us in celebrating!

July 12th – Guide Olympics

All registered Maine guides or Orvis Endorsed Guides are welcome to join us for an afternoon of competition events.

July 12-17 – \$125 days

Lodging and meals for just \$125/day/person!

July 17-21 – Libby Family Reunion

Bringing all the Libby's back to their roots!

Libby Camps
125 Years
1890 2015
A Maine Tradition

Those Sinking Fly Lines



I am addicted to fly fishing and sinking fly lines. There, I admit it. I am sure we will all agree though that watching that trout come to the surface for your dry fly creates a feeling like you are being put on the cover of the *Orvis* magazine. The reality, though, is that many days this is probably not going to happen due to many variables with the weather being at the top of the list.

All is not lost. Now it is time for what I enjoy the most, getting down and dirty to where they live. Of course I will even do this if there is a hatch on. There's my addiction part.

You say you don't have a sinking line or don't know how to fish it. Well, the guides at Libby's can show you and they all can get you the equipment you need if you don't have it. Then you let him talk you through the process. When the fish are not rising this could be the difference in success or not. Here are some insights to get you started.

I use what is typically called a full sinking type IV line. This is one of the faster sinking lines they make for trout fishing. The thing is I like to fish and not wait for the line to sink. I like the full sinking lines as they run truer during retrieval than the sinking tip and I fish some waters with a depth to 40 feet and a tip line just does not cut it. Leaders are a personal choice but my passion is fishing for big brookies so I will use a stronger leader like 4 to 5 lb. I don't want that trophy breaking my line. OK, so now you have to cast your line and it is down to where the fish do most of their feeding. Never stick with one retrieval, make it fast for a while and if that does not work make it slow, etc. Remember to always strip your line in as close to the canoe as possible before making your next cast. I have caught many a fish just as I was bringing the fly out for the next cast. You would be amazed how far the fish will follow it before they think it's going to get away and then "bam," you're not paying attention and you miss him. You may also find a speed that works one day and the next it may be just the opposite using the same pattern and, of course, some days nothing will work. That's fishing. Some of the best patterns for the ponds around Libby's are Woolly Buggers, Leeches, maple Syrup and even my favorite the Hornberg. There are many more but these will generally be at the top of the list. Some days it's change, change, change and then you find that fly you have not used in 2 years and it works again. Never stop trying. It is a great feeling when that line is yanked from your hand and the fight is on. Oh yes, you will feel the strike even if you can't see it. Sometimes it's just a slight pull but with time you will be able to tell. For deeper rivers and streams, a slow sinking tip will work great and sometimes just a floating line with a long leader and weighted fly. But I will leave that type of fishing for another day. Now sometimes, as we know, the fish do not want to cooperate at all and those days when you're at Libby's, just enjoy what nature has to offer, moose, deer, ducks, stories, Jess's great cooking, sunset, companions etc.

This last season we enjoyed some great pond fishing all season and caught some beautiful native brook trout and salmon big and small. The spring stream and river fishing was very good, but a very dry summer made it much harder fishing except the spring holes that produced real well.

Libby's has access to some of the best fishing in the North Maine Woods be it by vehicle or plane. The guides have countless hours of experience and will give you your best opportunity to catch fish and have a pleasant experience. Happy fishing!!

Terry Hunter

Words from LaBree



Last year's dry weather made fishing a little tougher for most. When faced with dry and hot summer days it's time to remember some basic rules in order to have a successful day out on the water. Your guide will undoubtedly want you to limit the false casts made to only one or two. The trout and salmon become skittish (more than normal) as the water drops and will spook easily when they sense movement from above. Too many false casts will chase them out of the pool. Your fly line landing on the water will spook them also. Rick had a chance to see the effect of fly line landing in a pool that was holding trout. He crawled along the bank and put himself in position to see into the water as the Fisherman cast the fly. At once the trout became wary even though the guy casting seemed to be far enough away not to have his movements detected. As his cast landed on the water the trout panicked and swam off. It wasn't a bad cast or sloppy presentation but the conditions that were causing the fish in this stream to become overly sensitive. We saw this over and over as the hot temps and dry days continued into the fall. Cutting down on false casting, watching where your shadow fell, casting above the pool and letting the fly drift into the pool, blurring your silhouette with cigar smoke, all became necessary in order to enjoy any success at all.

Another problem that occurs with warmer than usual water is the need for greater care handling the trout and salmon. Fighting them for too long will stress them to the point where they won't be able to recover. A common mistake when trying to revive a fish is to move them back and forth while submerged trying to push water through their gills. This can damage the gills, making it too difficult to get the oxygen needed for them to survive. Holding them in the current until they can swim away is the proper technique. It's best to let your guide release your catch. We can retrieve the fly and get the fish back in the water before it tires beyond the point of revival. If a picture is to be taken I like to have my sport kneeling in the water, ready to hold the fish and release it quickly. By kneeling in the water the trout or salmon won't be harmed if dropped. Hot, dry weather conditions sometimes make it impossible for snapshots. The fish may be stressed too much to risk the extra handling and a speedy release will be the only way for it to have a chance on living to battle another day.

In the afternoon your shadow will lengthen and if care isn't taken will fall across the water you are trying to work. Repositioning or standing farther away keeps the fish less concerned of your presence. Lack of fishing pressure on the streams and ponds enjoyed at Libby's allows for a degree of mistakes that would spell disaster on other water sheds. But during a dry season that lack of attentiveness we have become accustomed to erases our "lack of pressure" advantage. So, to recap, 1) Listen to your guide's suggestions. 2) Make him or her carry cigars, 3) Don't over handle the fish, 4) Plastic tipped cigars haven't the smoke making capacity to help. 5) This year will see ample rain and decent temperatures making this article moot. (I hope).

Tight lines and bent rods!

Jeff LaBree



The Outposts

Libby Outpost Camps, aka Ellen & Matt Sr. retirement project, continues to thrive. These log cabins at 10 locations on ponds and rivers, 6 to 20 miles from the main lodge, continue to be an integral part of the Libby Camp offerings. The remote, rustic cabins offer a great variation to Libby guests who may have gone to other states or provinces to enjoy a completely different wilderness experience. Many guests will start out at one of the outposts and transfer over to the main lodge later in the week to be pampered by Jess and the crew.

We continue to upgrade the cabins with more work done to Clear Lake and Lower Hudson and a new road to Brown Pond. Our goal every year is to have a cabin ready to move into that feels like it was your own camp. Most of our loyal guest treat these camps like their own and even make improvements while there.

We promised a rate increase for 2015, and guess what, we reneged. Gas prices have dropped and business is up so we have decided to stop taking credit cards which will give us a few percentage points of profit. Customers have also helped us keep the rate constant with their care of the camps.

Look us up at www.libbyoutpost.com for rates, etc. All inquiries should go to:

1. Mail: Libby Outposts 197 Haystack Rd. Castle Hill, ME 04757
2. Phone: Satellite phone at Matt and Ellen's camp is 863-200-4374
3. Email: mattp@libbycamps.com (best method of getting one of us)



Clear Lake- wood detail in January.



Nightly Rates @ Outpost Camps

2-3 nights

of People

- 1 @ \$125/night
- 2 @ \$75/night/person
- 3 @ \$60/night/person
- 4 @ \$50/night/person
- 5 @ \$45/night/person
- 6 @ \$42/night/person
- 7 @ \$40/night/person
- 8 @ \$38/night/person

4 nights or more

- \$100/night
- \$60/night/person
- \$45/night/person
- \$38/night/person
- \$35/night/person
- \$32/night/person
- \$30/night/person
- \$29/night/person

Ellen with her few minutes of fishing and a nice brookie.

Kepimets Lodge—Labrador



Crusher with a great catch

Matt and Ellen have decided to run the lodge in Labrador this summer for a few weeks to enjoy the trophy fishing (Matt is a Labrador guide), building log cabins and the unspoiled wilderness. Kepimets Lake is 90 miles by air from the nearest town, Wabush. Our nearest neighbor is 45 river miles away.

We replaced the main lodge with a log building from scratch in 2014, cutting, peeling and boating the timbers to the island site. A great group of volunteers helped us get the building closed in. We plan to have it up and running this year. Our goal is to fill August with clients (4 per week). Check out our website www.labradortrout.com for complete info. Rates have been held again while we rebuild. If fishing for Brook trout, Landlocked Salmon, Lakers and Pike from 2 to 40 pounds excite you, then you may not want to miss this summer. Contact us the same as you would the Libby Outposts.

Matt and Ellen.

From Away

Our first season working at Libby's has gone by in a whirlwind. It was like one minute the trees were starting to bloom and the next minute snow was flying. It will be a year ago, April 30th, that Darren and I packed our cars and headed north. The whole experience this year was a learning curve for us, and a welcome one at that. Sitting here trying to pinpoint a highlight of the season is nearly impossible. How can you possibly choose a favorite thing when you live in the setting we do! Although the sunsets would rank right up there! We are very grateful for being given this opportunity to work at Libby's and alongside all the people we do. We are looking forward to what the 2015 season has in store and all the guests we will be acquainted and reacquainted with!

Kasey & Darren



Thoughts on Upland Birds

Before I get into the status of season, I want to answer a question that gets asked a number of times by my clients every season.....“What are good looking grouse coverts?” My answer hasn’t changed since I started chasing the king of the upland birds and this season solidified my answer, which is “Whereever the grouse are”! The interesting thing is that this season showed me and the upland canine crew a few new areas that I have been driving by for years.

To begin this report, I have to start with the observation we had all summer into the fall with relatively small broods of grouse. The guides all take good mental notes of our observations and compare them at the end of most days on a regular basis. Two to 3 birds with a protective hen was the norm. As fall progressed we started running into bigger groups of birds which had us quite optimistic for another great season. When the starting gun went off and we raced to our favorite coverts, we found birds in good numbers. For the first couple of weeks, finding limit opportunities was not a big task. As the season progressed, we found that it took strong effort and a fair amount of hiking to find the same numbers. What I found quite interesting was that some of us were finding birds in areas

that we never would have spent much time in. An interesting find were those areas of small wooded spots among much larger harvested areas. One theory is that the birds, whose range is relatively small to start with, got much smaller after a harvest of their habitat, and rather than venture big distances away from the new cut, they gathered up in what area of cover was left. I found myself putting the dogs down in what I



would call a “wooded island” in the middle of a clear cut area. Not a particularly traditional covert but, interestingly enough, productive. Perimeters of cut areas were productive as well. I think the secret was to find areas that previously had been productive prior to the harvest and then work the peripherals of that area.

2014 will go down in my logbook as being one of the best woodcock seasons I can remember. A tip from one of our moose guides led me to an area that again, I might have driven by had it not been for his observations one morning while waiting for Bullwinkle to make an appearance. He told me about seeing some birds coming in this particular morning. I scouted it prior to opening day and discovered it wasn’t a fluke. The flyers were stopping over in this spot in great numbers. On our first day there, my first clients were limited out with one quick push with my semi-retired lab Kyra. In checking out similar terrain within a couple square miles of this spot, we had limit opportunities daily for the first couple weeks of the season, often times flushing well over 20 birds in a session. Charger, Kyra, Moose, Dandy, and Beretta got more woodcock experience this past season than they probably have had in years. The most interesting thing about this area was that it wasn’t your traditional alder covered, wet ground area. I will gladly share the secret with you when you arrive next season!!

*See ya next season, be safe,
Scott Story*



Make A Wish

Hello, my name is Robert Boren... I am eleven years old and have cardiac epilepsy. The Make a Wish organization granted me a wish. I knew I wanted to go somewhere that I could fish...so I got on the computer and started searching. Libby's Camps came up on the computer. As I started looking closer I saw the Brittany Spaniels and the lake cabins and loons and

moose and knew I wanted to go there. When we arrived we checked in and spent the first day playing with the dogs, fishing off the dock and playing with Kayla and Parker Libby.

The next day I was so excited. We had breakfast at the lodge and Jessie packed us a lunch, then we headed out with our guide Mike. He taught me how to fly fish. I caught lots of fish and had an awesome time. The next day Matt took me and my parents and brothers up in the float plane that he and Jessie his wife gave me as my part of my wish from them. I got to see a bull moose from the float plane. The third day after breakfast Jessie packed me and my family a lunch and we headed out in one of the boats to picnic at one of the outpost cabins. We were able to see lots of loons on the lake and another moose feeding at the edge of the lake. Thanks to Matt and Jessie Libby. They made my Make a Wish trip to Maine a very special once in a lifetime trip. I am the first Make a Wish kid to choose to go to Maine and I hope more kids choose to go to Libby's Camps . . .it really was a dream come true. I hope I can go back one day.

Robert Boren, Stigler, Oklahoma

This Fishery is in Good Health

A few of the quotes we hear as guides at Libbys' are, "That's the biggest Brookie I've ever caught," or "That's the most Brookies I've ever caught." Those quotes are enough to prove to us that the resource we are fishing is one of the best there is for Native Brookies. Add to that the number of folks who keep coming back and you soon realize how special a spot this really is.

Over the years it has always surprised me how well the areas we fish keep on producing. The fish, most of them at least, are wild native Brook Trout, which make them quite special. Maine, especially the areas we fish here at Libby's, has the greatest number of native Brook Trout waters of any other state. Maine fish biologists seem to do a mighty fine job managing this great resource and we applaud them for their efforts.

My journal tells me last year continued to produce a lot of very nice fish. Fish in the rivers and streams, at least early on, produced some very respectable Brookies and Salmon. Fish in the 18 to 20 inch range were landed. Ponds continue to be the steadiest producers of the bigger Brookies. Fishing for these native fish isn't always easy, but when they are hitting on top it's a day you won't soon forget.

This year is shaping up to be another good year. The snow pack is deep, which means we should have plenty of cold water for those wonderful Brookies you all like to catch.

Rick Young

Bear and 2014

First of all, many thanks to everyone that helped defeat our latest Bear Referendum. Even though the Humane Society of the United States put up three million dollars, lots of folks came together to the tune of over two million and lots of work to preserve our hunting traditions. There is currently a bill being introduced in Congress to prevent this from happening again. I'll keep you posted.

2014 bear numbers were excellent. As usual I started preparing in late July. Paul and Ann, two of my fishing friends, joined me. If you recall from last year's article I put out the invitation for anyone to join me and see what this prep work was all about. We even got some fishing in at one of my favorite ponds. The August caddis fly hatch was on. Overcast, no wind, caddis flies hatching, you can imagine the fishing frenzy. I even got to fish that day! Thanks, Paul and Ann.

After the sites were set up, there was no lack of activity. Many places had multiple bear visits. I can't remember a time where I have seen more sows with cubs. That's a pretty good indication on how well the bear population is doing in northern Maine. As usual there were plenty of small bears around, but there were several sites that had at least one big boy showing. But as many of you experienced Bear hunters know these large bruins are extremely shy and smart.

Mike and his daughter Tia from Hot Springs, Arkansas, joined me for opening week. As usual we have a Bear "briefing" prior to the hunt. This is to insure client and guide safety and proper shot placement. Tia, who by the way is only 24, is an experienced deer hunter but this was her first bear hunt. She had plenty of opportunities to harvest a small bear, but she held out for "Yogi." Two large bears showed during her hunt, but the shot placement was not there. I take my hat off to her, because she passed several times. The shot was not there. What an ethical young hunter. She and Mike promised to return for another try. Congratulations to all the successful hunters at Libby's this past season. I'm already looking forward to the 2015 season. If anyone wants to join me to see what this

prep work is all about, please do. Maybe I will get another chance to fish. Many thanks to all the crew at camp. Looking forward to spring.

Chuck



Maine Moose Hunting

I get asked each year by fishing clients how we hunt moose at Libby's and what is involved.



First and foremost, you need a permit. MDIFW auctions 10 permits each year and there is a lottery for the remaining 3000 or so permits. Libby's is located right in the middle of zone 5 which is one of the best moose hunting zones in the state. The habitat is ideal and the hunting pressure is very low. Our goal at Libby's is to have you experience a moose hunt rather than just have you "get your moose". When you arrive for your moose hunt, your guide will already have spent considerable time scouting remote areas in search of bulls and concentrations of moose.

The September season coincides with the rut and if the weather stays cool, there is a lot of moose action. The main tactic we use to hunt bulls in the rut is calling. The object is to sound like a love sick cow. Moose are vocal during the rut and if you can find a bull in the right frame of mind you can call him into gun or bow range. Sometimes calling can work too well!



Duke Lovetere, whom I've had the pleasure to guide the last few years is as adventurous as I am when it comes to moose hunting. It's a good thing too, because Duke shot a giant bull 3 years ago that landed 20 feet from where we were standing! Let me tell you, calling a 1200 pound bull right into your lap is as exciting as it gets! Duke's moose was shot 3/4 of a mile from the nearest road which brings up the last part of your hunt, the removal of your moose from the woods. Trust me; this can be an adventure all in itself! The Libby



guides are all prepared to get your moose out by whatever means necessary. Most are quartered and carried out on pack frames, but other methods we have used involved float planes, canoes, boats and sleds.

Congratulations to Duke, Doc and Marty on their success. All three were rewarded with trophy bulls with over 50 inch spreads. Late September is a great time to be in the woods of northern Maine moose hunting so make sure to get your moose permit applications sent in.

Toby

From the Breadboard

I won the lottery in 2014! The moose lottery, that is. Since 1982 I had applied for a moose permit, so 2014 was my 33rd try, and June 14th was my lucky day. We were at the drawing, so I heard my name when it was called – maybe I should have been going to the drawings each year? My first preference would have been to hunt in zone 5, but I was chosen for zone 4. Luckily fishing guide Jeff LaBree let us stay at his camp smack in the middle of zone 4. My sub-permittee/guide Matt P and I had very little time to scout in advance of the September hunt, but we made the most of it, scouting by airplane, truck, canoe and the all-important boots on the ground. Several areas looked promising, and I didn't know how we would decide where to go. The answer came to us on Sunday, as we canoed a stretch of deadwater, and the biggest racked bull Matt has ever seen presented himself for us to watch for about 10 minutes. This moose was challenging us, grunting, snorting, belching, swinging that massive 30 point rack, and me with no camera. So, well before legal shooting on Monday morning we were hidden in the alders along that deadwater for several hours, but that was not to be my moose.

We had lots of close encounters with moose during the week. As Matt was calling we could see branches moving and hear grunts, but the moose just didn't appear. Friday our good buddy Chuck came over to help and we had another close call that didn't materialize. Saturday, we decided to hunt closer to camp. Chuck had a spot he wanted us to try, so we turned the guiding over to him. The afternoon wore on, and I had come to the conclusion that I was going to be going home without a moose. Matt had come to the same conclusion and mentioned it to me shortly after 6 pm. Shortly however we heard an answer from the bog to our call, but then Matt glanced to his left, and sees a different moose coming down the road answering Chuck's call. He drops to one knee, and doesn't move. Chuck calls, moose answers and comes closer, repeat, repeat. Matt's not moving, but I am. I am breathing so hard there's not a chance I can take a shot, my gun is moving up and down with each breath. Chuck's saying, "shoot, shoot, will somebody please shoot!" Matt finally does, and I calm down enough to shoot also, and at 6:40 pm, with just 13 minutes of the season remaining, we have a moose! 798 pounds, 48" spread, and he's very tasty.

Ellen

From The Deer Yard

The deer are having a good winter as of April 1st in our neck of the woods. New cuts this winter have helped them get food as well. The next few weeks will be the test. Snow depths reached about 3 feet well into March and never really crusted over (which would make coyote predation an issue). This is also good news for Grouse being able to dive into snow on frigid nights.

The fall hunt was successful with the following story leading the pack: On Tuesday Rick Cort shot a nice 5 point 165 pound buck adding to the game pole. The snow that week helped tracking and made a few hunters happy. Rick's brother, Mark quietly slipped in for dinner on Wednesday with no apparent deer story for the day. But that all changed on Thursday. The 2 brothers teamed up on a buck's track that Mark had shot at Wednesday late in the day about 3 miles from camp. He didn't want to alert any other hunters that he may have a buck down. After jumping the buck early that next morning and tracking it for many miles through swamps, over ridges and crossing old roads Mark finally made a great killing shot. Mark looked at his brother and said "any idea where we are". "Not a clue" said Rick. While Rick was accessing his GPS, Mark said "that looks like a building over there". Pacing off a few yards they came upon a boat and then saw the building. Yep it was our barn and our boats. I heard the shot and shortly after started up the wheeler and had the buck hanging minutes later. It was a beautiful 10 point buck that weighed in at 195 pounds.



Matt Libby Sr.

Snowmobiling in the North Maine Woods (changed my life forever)

Oftentimes I am asked the question, "How did you become connected with Libby's?" My short answer is, "I loved being at Libby's so much I was like a bad rash. I showed up unexpectedly and they had to do something with me!"

The truth is, one of my favorite winter activities is snowmobiling. Not riding around towns on groomed trails, traffic and the same old scenery, but riding in the North Maine Woods. Snowmobiling in the big woods on unplowed logging roads, across lakes and through the forest breaking my own trail is what I am looking for. Being able to watch wildlife such as deer and moose munch on trees, eagles taking flight, bobcat or lynx slinking along a lake shore or a coyote running down a road is always a treat. Also, the beauty of all the earth blanketed in snow, streams, lakes and ponds that are frozen over is hard to describe.

The difficult part of witnessing all of this beauty is the lack of amenities. There are no gas stations or restaurants to stop at. Food and gas must be brought, cell phone services are nonexistent and there are no groomed, designated trails. A snowmobiler can get in trouble quickly if not adequately prepared.

Libby Camps opened for snowmobiling three years ago and changed all of that. The beauty of nature is still there, the snow still falls, all of the creatures still survive and the temps still plummet. However, gas is available and meals such as Jess prepares (my frozen sandwiches just didn't appeal to me anymore). I started to plan my trips around camp, often bringing my wife with me (with her there I get more goodies without seeming to overindulge).

As winter drew to a close, I really was going to miss camp, so I started making plans for dinners throughout the spring and summer. Going to camp for dinners, I became acquainted with the Libby family and the guides. Because I do love the outdoors and all the usual activities that go with it, Matt J. and Scott Story suggested I get my Guide's license and actually make myself useful around camp. I think they were worried I might just sit around and eat all day without something to do.

After job shadowing with all of the Guides I obtained my Fishing Guide's License and will be joining the Libby legacy this spring. To be able to work alongside these guys is an experience I look forward to. The knowledge, sense of humor, ethics, and camaraderie amongst these men is something I hope to carry on. Over the course of the last season I got a firsthand look at how much detail and thought go into every aspect of the guest's stay. The guides are up at night and early morning discussing the weather, different places to fish and the guest's preferences to determine the best possible experience. Jess is in the

kitchen planning and serving up the best food a person can have and ensuring the details of the cabin accommodations are comfortable.

This winter has been immensely satisfying with all of the snowmobiling. I am looking forward to this spring and all of the activities and opportunities that come with the start of a new season.

Jeff Butterfield

P.S. The long dusty drive from Oxbow gate to camp? It takes me 15 minutes via snowmobile.



Fishing and Vacationing 2015

- Pkg #1: \$225/person/day d.o.; \$275/day single. Includes private sleeping cabin with bath on the lake, boat & motor, canoes, kayaks, three home-cooked meals and maid service.
- Pkg #2: \$310/person/day d.o.; \$445/day single. Includes all of #1 plus one sea-plane fly out every other day to remote ponds, rivers, or trails.
- Pkg#3: \$460/person/day d.o.; \$745/day single. Includes all of the above plus full guide service.

Hunting

Upland Birds and Game:

3 night minimum; must arrive or depart on a Sunday. **50% deposit required.**

- Pkg#1: \$300/person/day d.o.; \$450/day single. Includes private sleeping cabin with bath on the lake, three home-cooked meals and maid service.
- Pkg#2: \$535/person/day d.o.; \$925/day single. Includes above plus services of a full time guide and dogs.
- Pkg#3: Includes above plus 1 flyout and unlimited clays. 3 days 4 nights: \$2250/person d.o. \$3900 single.



Deer: Sunday to Sunday only.

- Pkg #1: \$1150/person/week d.o.; \$1605/week single. Includes Cabin and meals. **Deposit \$500.**
- Pkg #2: \$2050/person/week d.o.; \$3405/week single. Includes above plus full time guide for 6 days. **Deposit \$600.**

Bear: Sunday to Sunday only.

- **Main camp hunts;** August 30- Sept. 6; \$2200/person/week d.o.; \$2800/week single. Includes meals, private cabin with bath, guide for every 4 men, boats for fishing. Everything except licenses, tax and taxidermy. Big game license \$114, bear tag \$74. **Deposit \$700.**

Moose: Sunday to Sunday only (by lottery)

- Pkg#1: \$1750/person/week d.o.; \$2650/week single. Includes cabin, meals, and boat & motor.
- **Deposit \$1000.**
- Pkg#2: \$2800/person/week d.o.; \$4750/week single. Includes all of the above plus guide service.
- **Deposit \$2000/person.**
- Moose VIP; \$4650/person/week d.o.; \$8400/single. **Deposit \$2500.**

LIBBY CAMPS

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