

Rangeley Region Guides' & Sportsmen's Association

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Fall 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dave Kretzing

I did not expect to be writing the president's message this year, but with Gary stepping down as president in October you get me this year. I want to thank Gary for all his hard work the past couple of years. It has not been easy with Covid-19.

I have been vice president for almost two years and on the board of directors for eight years, so hopefully I have the tools needed for this job. Also, my wife is Sheri Oldham, who is a past president of the club. I'm sure that I can lean on her for guidance. Other changes that took place are Scott Hatfield moving to vice president from treasurer and Jack McNulty stepping up to be treasurer.

Although we did not hold our monthly potluck dinners this year, we managed to hold many of our regular outdoor events. The Mooselookmeguntic Landlocked Salmon Derby in June was a great success and plans are to hold another derby this year. Both the Third in the Park and Strawberry Festival had larger than normal crowds and we sold out of food at both events. Junior Guides and the Youth Hunt Breakfast had large turnouts, so the future looks good for outdoor traditions. Read through the newsletter and you will see all the other programs we offer and the number of volunteers that it takes to staff our projects. If you want to volunteer for anything, contact me or any of the board members.

Here's hoping to meet both new and old members of the club and letting you know you can always contact me with any concerns or ideas you may have.

Dave

MOOSELOOKMEGUNTIC LANDLOCKED SALMON DERBY

On June 19 and 20 this year, RRG&SA held its first annual Mooselookmeguntic Landlocked Salmon Derby. We entered into this to support DIF&W's goals to improve the

harvest of salmon in this body of water to address "poor salmon growth and condition."



We had a tremendous response, both from anglers and sponsors. We would like to specifically thank our sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors

Hight Dealerships
Skowhegan Savings Bank

Gold Sponsors

River's Edge Sports

Silver Sponsors

Oquossoc Marine
Blue Flame Gas
Bald Mountain Camps

Bronze Sponsors

Mooselook Guided Adventures
Morton & Furbish Insurance Agency
Morton & Furbish Real Estate
Northeast Troller
Rangeley Lakes Builders Supply
Saddleback
Rangeley Region Sports Shop
Portage Tap House
Koob's Garage
Mike Cerminara Landscaping

The Hungry Trout
Rangeley IGA
Lake Region Power Systems
Franklin Savings Bank
Lyons Lakeside Cabins
L. L. Cote
Jewett Electrical
Allied Realty

We could not have held this event without the leadership of the Derby Steering Committee: Kirby Holcombe, Gerry White, Bill Richards, Dudley Gray, and Dave Kretzing. Thank you all for your enthusiasm, creativity, and leadership!

Based on the feedback from participants, sponsors, and Maine's DIF&W, we anticipate holding this event again in 2022. We also hope to present a debrief from DIF&W at a future membership meeting. Keep an eye out for more information early in the new year.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

By Joyce Fay

Our Annual Strawberry Festival was back this summer! Many of our past vendors returned along with some new local artists and crafters. The Strawberry Shortcake committee served up our fresh strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream. Carol Harvey stepped in to oversee food prep and Mary Hembrow took on the role of chairperson. Our grill masters were very busy providing delicious lunch items from the grill.

Thank you to Mike Koob, The Portage Tap House and the Rangeley Fire Department for the use of their space. A special thank you to our wonderful club members who volunteered their time to make this event a success.

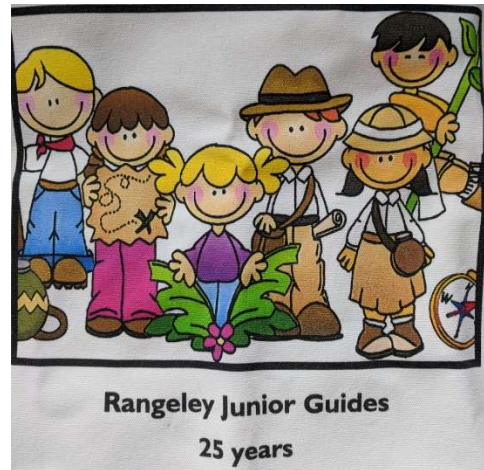


The festival is always the 2nd Thursday in July, so mark your calendar for July 14, 2021. For more info call (207) 864-2651.

JUNIOR GUIDE PROGRAM

By Elaine Holcombe

The Rangeley Region Guides & Sportsmen's Association's Junior Guide program for 9-12 years old celebrated its 25th year offering a fun and challenging indoor/outdoor nature program for youngsters in the area.



The program is offered in 6 sessions that deal with the grouping of organisms; identification of tracks, teeth, and skulls of Maine mammals; and much more. Both programs

presented to the youngsters new challenges in the areas of water sports (paddle boarding), fly casting, and fly tying. The program culminated in a visit to the Forestry Museum with Scott Stevens presenting a hands-on look at the history and importance of logging in the area. We also had wildlife biologist Sarah Boyden review animal pelts and skulls and how logging links to wildlife habitat.



We're so grateful and appreciative for all our volunteers and expert presenters who help make our Junior Guides program such a unique and successful experience.

Pre-registration is mandatory and will take place in the spring of 2022. Please contact Joyce Fay at 864-2651. For more information go to www.rangeleyoutdoors.org or check out our Facebook page.



JUNIOR GUIDES' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Elaine Holcombe

The RRG&SA was pleased to award its 2021 scholarship to Rangeley Lakes Regional School graduate, Ellah Smith. We wish her all the best as she continues her education.

As a reminder, RRG&SA continues to build our endowment in support of advanced education. See your renewal form for an easy way to contribute for these amazing young people.

RANGELEY SKEET and TRAP ASSOCIATION

By Dave Kretzing, President RRSTA

Please remember that your RRG&SA membership allows you to shoot at RRSTA member rates. We offer trap, wobble trap, skeet, 5-stand, and traditional sporting clays. You can check our website, www.rrsta.org, for further information about our 2022 events and shooting schedule.

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE



Our Rifle and Pistol Range continues to be one of most-used resources. As you might imagine, insuring these facilities is a critical concern. In 2021, we worked with our underwriters to better understand utilization and procedures. We appreciate all those who responded to our various surveys. We believe that our efforts put us in a good position to be able to provide such resources into the future without cost increases.

We anticipate that for 2022 we will continue to operate the same way. Each participant needs to stop in to River's Edge to sign a release EACH YEAR. When you do, you will be given the gate code. Please observe the range rules and encourage safety and respect.

YOUTH HUNT BREAKFAST

We held our annual Youth Hunt Breakfast on October 23. We had a strong turnout with nine youth hunters plus other family members. They were treated to a terrific breakfast. Reports indicate that over half were able to take deer that day. Congratulations!

MEMORIALS

We want to recognize the passing of long-time member Sandy Miller this year. We all have our memories of him: fishing, greeting folks from his front porch in town, or his famous slaw at potlucks. We offer our condolences to his family and friends on the loss of this fine man.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By Paula Hatfield, Membership Chair

I want to start by reporting on another successful year for our membership efforts. While we frequently wondered if Covid might get in the way, it did not. In fact, quite the opposite. We've benefited by new residents in the area, increased participation in safer outdoor activities, and overwhelming support of our resumed events. As is typically the case, we report our results before the year has actually ended, but we will easily top 1100 members this year. That's approximately 10% above both last year's number and our previous record high.

Our membership drive is also the largest source of funds for our scholarship programs. This year, you collectively added more than \$2600 to our reserved scholarship funds. That means that we can continue to provide and enhance our efforts.

Our membership program will remain unchanged in 2022. Rates remain the same. Expect to receive an email invitation to renew in late January and a paper renewal

form in late February. Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. As a reminder, you can always point prospective members to the membership tab on our website where they can either print out an application or complete the process online. You can also direct them to River's Edge Sport Shop where they are always happy to take a membership in-person.

Finally, I want to announce that starting in 2022 we will have a new Membership Director. The team of Patrick and Laura Hayden will take over from Scott and me. We will coordinate with them through this upcoming campaign. When you see them, please offer your thanks to Patrick and Laura. There's a lot of work involved in servicing this growing club!

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact us at membership@rangeleyoutdoors.org

2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Regular membership potluck supper & meetings are currently suspended. When they resume, they will normally be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. No meeting in April. Potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by Club meeting and guest speaker, at the Clubhouse.

- May 15: Rifle & Pistol Range opens for season
- May 15: Shotgun Range opens for season
- June 1: Archery Range opens for season
- June 25: Tim Baker Nature Trail and storybook walk opens
- June 11-12: Second Annual Mooselookmeguntic Landlocked Salmon Fishing Derby
- July 3: Town Park Event
- July 4: Shotgun Tournament -Shotgun Range
- July: Junior Guides begins, ages 9-12, dates still TBD
- July 14: Strawberry Festival
- July 21: Annual Meeting at Clubhouse
- August 27-28: Shotgun Tournament
- October 8: Annual Turkey Shoot
- October 22: Youth Hunt Breakfast
- October 31: All Ranges Close
- December 15: Christmas Party

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We want to express our sincere thanks to Gary Langille who has served as President for these past years. His dedication and energy have been instrumental as we navigated around Covid and the associated impact. Gary stepped down in October of this year due to work and

other commitments, meaning that some members stepped into new roles.

We also welcome one new Board Member, Sonny Pierce. Many of you will recognize Sonny as a retired state wildlife biologist and guest speaker. We look forward to Sonny's contributions.

The current leadership is shown below:

The RRG&SA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Dave Kretzing

VICE PRESIDENT – Scott Hatfield

SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe

TREASURER – Jack McNulty

DIRECTORS:

Vincent Catrini,
Butch Desantis,
Joyce Fay,
Patrick Hayden,
Nick Leadley,
Bill Richards,
Sam Spaulding,
Gerry White,
Sonny Pierce

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

Stay up to date on the club activities by frequently visiting our web site: www.rangeleyoutdoors.org or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA.

