

Maine Wilderness Guides Org.

An Association of Registered Maine Guides



MWGO eNews, vol 3: November 2020

Report from the MWGO Annual Meeting by *Jeanne Christie and Reid Anderson, MWGO President and Vice President*

It was great to see, albeit virtually, those who attended the MWGO Annual Meeting! Thanks to Jeanne for organizing and hosting the Zoom meeting; it appeared that having the ability to Zoom in from home may have increased the attendance at the meeting. While we all look forward to being able to host an in-person Annual Meeting next year, we will certainly keep in mind the value of having the option to attend virtually for those who are not able to attend in-person.

In addition to the routine business of approving the Secretary's Report from the previous Annual Meeting and the Treasurer's Report, we heard from Melanie for the Advocacy Report. Melanie shared with the membership on several topics including the status of CMP's NECEC project (see Short Bytes for further updates on this), the termination of the Plum Creek Concept Plan for the Moosehead Lake region as well as the subsequent LUPC regional development plan that is just getting started, the progress of the Katahdin Woods and Waters comprehensive management plan, the evaluation of the LUPC Adjacency Rule in progress, and the status of Wolfden's rezoning request to allow a metallic mine near Mt. Chase (see Short Bytes for further updates on this). Jeanne gave an update on pending legislation that would allow student leaders of secondary and collegiate outing clubs to lead recreational trips by creating an Educational Trip leader exemption. The regulations and licensing process would be similar to those required to certify as a Youth Camp Trip Leader.

In order to make sure that all Board Members currently serving were up-to-date on their voted terms, there were several votes to "re-up" various Board Members whose three year terms may have already expired or were about to expire. The membership in attendance also voted on the slate of officers for the organization. That slate of officers included: Jeanne Christie (President), Reid Anderson (Vice-President), John Wight (Treasurer), and Mac Davis (Secretary). By virtue of the by-laws of the Wilderness Guides Outdoor Education Fund, the MWGO officers except for the Vice President serve as the officers of the WGEOF, for which Nick Leadley will serve as Vice President. Retiring Board Member Cathy Johnson was recognized and thanked for her many years of service on the Board. She will be presented with an inscribed paddle from MWGO made by Kevin.

Continued on next page

Short Bytes:

Army Corps approves NECEC permit, but the fight continues by *Melanie Sturm, NRCM*

On November 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved a permit for CMP's proposed 145-mile New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC), the final permit needed for the project to move forward. The proposed transmission line would cut through forests and waterways in western Maine to supply power produced by HydroQuebec to Massachusetts. CMP announced they'll begin construction as soon as early December, despite two ongoing lawsuits against NECEC. One of those, filed on October 28, claims the Army Corps should have conducted a full environmental impact statement for NECEC, as opposed to the less rigorous environmental assessment that was done. On Election Day, volunteers collected 23,000 signatures to put a new referendum on the ballot in 2021 to stop the corridor. Since then, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Sierra Club have filed an injunction in US District Court seeking to prevent construction until the court can fully consider the ongoing lawsuits.

MWGO Opposes Wolfden Rezoning Request by *Jeanne Christie, MWGO President*

On Nov 12, MWGO sent a letter to the Land Use Planning Commission opposing a rezoning request to allow a metallic mine near Mt. Chase in Penobscot County. The LUPC is currently reviewing the rezoning request from Wolfden Mt. Chase, LLC. The letter includes an explanation of the reasons MWGO opposes the rezoning request. You can read the full letter by [clicking here](#). More information about the rezoning request can be found on the [LUPC website](#).

Three rivers guidebook for KWW region planned by *Reid Anderson, MWGO Vice President*

Sam Deering is working on a three rivers guidebook for the Katahdin Woods and Waters region and seeks to bolster the list of services available, including the opportunity to hire guides for the upper portion of the East Branch of the Penobscot as it can be quite dangerous for inexperienced or less knowledgeable paddlers. As Henry David Thoreau wrote in [The Maine Woods](#), "We had heard of a Grand Fall on this stream, and thought that each fall we came to must be it, but after christening several in succession we gave up the search. There were more Grand or Petty Falls than I can remember."

Continued from previous page

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, MWGO will continue its advocacy and conservation efforts, always seeking to provide a unified voice for the profession of wilderness guiding. We will also work to improve communication and develop a communication strategy such that the membership hears from MWGO in a regular and consistent manner. Together with an updated and revised set of responsibilities for Board Members and a revised and updated Strategic Plan, we hope this improved communication and a few new Board Members will help to re-energize the activities of MWGO. One such outcome would be MWGO sponsored trainings and events throughout the year.

Make sure to keep on the lookout for more information on these efforts and more from MWGO by reading the monthly eNews. Never hesitate to reach out to share your thoughts, ideas, and desires for MWGO!

President, Jeanne Christie: jeanne@connecttowilderness.com
Vice President, Reid Anderson: reidsanderson@gmail.com

Field Tested Recipe: Steamboats



Cut potatoes, peppers, onions, zucchini, kale and any other vegetables desired and place into foil “boat” (double layer foil for best durability). Add only enough water for steaming (just a few tablespoons), some oil to prevent the contents from burning or sticking to the foil, and some salt, pepper, and/or other herbs/spices.

Fold closed and then place the foil over a hot coal bed to steam the vegetables. Check periodically depending on the size of the steamboat, using caution to avoid steam burns. Add bacon or other precooked meat/protein to the steamboat to serve as the main dish or serve as a side dish to steak or chicken.

Photo Credit: Will Hackett

Tips from the Pros

“If your feet are cold, put a hat on.”

It’s true! When your feet are cold in the bottom of your sleeping bag, put a hat on (on your head, not on your feet) to help keep your feet warm. Of course, a well sealed water bottle of warm water in the foot of your sleeping bag can help too!

Quick Links

- [Mills renews COVID-19 travel restrictions for Massachusetts residents](#)
- [Injunction filed to stop construction of CMP corridor](#)
- [Elliotsville Foundation Returns 735 Acres To Penobscots](#)
- [As podcasts grow in popularity, so do stories of Maine’s outdoors](#)
- [Protecting Maine's declining moose population](#)
- [3 marvelous days grouse hunting in the Maine woods](#)
- [A search for Maine’s blueback trout](#)
- [Wolf Scat Discovered In Maine After Scientists Test DNA](#)

Upcoming Events and Dates

- Dec 14-18: [Winter Guide Training](#) by Mahoosuc Guide Service, Newry, ME. [Click here for more info.](#) Contact Polly: (207) 824-2073 or mahoosucguides@gmail.com
MWGO Professional Members are eligible for a \$50 reimbursement (\$25 for Supporting Members) for WFA, WAFA, WFR, WEMT or Recertification Courses.

From the Field



After “falling back,” you have to wake up extra early to get sunrise photos like this one over Songo Pond in Albany Twp.

Photo Credit: Mac Davis

Do you have an article, link, recipe, tip, event, or photo to share in the next eNews?

Send your submission to: newsletter@mwgo.org!