

Maine Wilderness Guides Org.

An Association of Registered Maine Guides



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The Year Ahead: Priority Action Areas for 2021

by Jeanne Christie, MWGO President

The Maine Wilderness Guides Organization met on January 25 to vote on three new board members; adopt a strategic plan for 2021 and establish four committees to carry out the plan. We'd like to welcome Sean McCormick of [Blue Heron Fly Fishing](#), Nancy Zane of [North Star Adventures](#), and Jaclyn Stratton of [Waterways Guiding](#) to the board. They bring a diversity of experience and interests to MWGO.

Priority Actions Areas for 2021 include:

- Establish and activate the Communication, Advocacy, Membership and Education Committees
- Support conservation of Maine's natural resources
- Provide the MWGO membership with meaningful benefits and increase membership
- Continue revitalizing the Board of Directors
- Acquire funds to carry out MWGO's strategic plan in future years including hiring a part time Executive Director.

Much of the work in the coming year will be carried out through the four committees. Here are some highlights of the tasks assigned. We are looking for MWGO members to join each committee; so [please fill out this form](#) if you are interested in joining one of these committees.

Communication Committee

Purpose: Increase the visibility of MWGO to attract new members, inform current members and support conservation of Maine's natural resources. Possible activities might include:

- Publish monthly newsletter
- Increase social media presence and visibility
- Coordinate with the Advocacy Committee to ensure members receive updates on key legislation and other important news
- Find avenues for communicating with prospective members through third parties

Education Committee

Purpose: Support professional development and guide training opportunities. Possible activities might include:

- Hold and/or Co-sponsor training opportunities for guides
- Continue the Wilderness First Aid scholarship program for MWGO members
- Establish regular webinars on issues important to members
- Meet with IF&W seeking opportunities for collaboration

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Short Bytes:

NECEC: Injunction Granted and Opposition Signatures Delivered by Melanie Sturm, NRCM

The widespread opposition to the CMP corridor by Maine people continues to plague the controversial proposal because of the irreparable harm it would do to the woods, waters and wildlife of Western Maine. On Thursday January 22, more than 100,000 signatures were handed in to the Secretary of State from voters in more than 500 Maine communities in support of a referendum on the 2021 ballot to oppose the transmission line. Just a week earlier, a federal court imposed an injunction blocking any construction on Segment 1 in Western Maine while an ongoing lawsuit filed by Appalachian Mountain Club, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Sierra Club Maine can be considered. At least two other lawsuits have been filed against the project and several bills that would stop the corridor have been introduced by lawmakers.

Upcoming Bills of Interest to MWGO in the 130th Legislature by Melanie Sturm, NRCM

Now that the new legislature has been sworn in the list of proposed bills has started to grow. I will attempt to monitor the list and post periodic updates of bills that may be of interest to members. That list is posted on the [Advocacy tab of the MWGO website](#). The format on the state website is different than in years past and takes a bit more work to get this information on the website. As in the past you will need to read the bill and contact your local legislator(s) and let them know your opinion about the bill. The complete list of bills is searchable on the [Maine.gov website](#).

Public Comment and Hearing on Kennebec River Fish Restoration Plan by Melanie Sturm, NRCM

Maine's Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has extended the deadline seeking public comment and will hold a public hearing on the proposed [Kennebec River Fish Restoration Plan](#). Protecting and fostering healthy waterways provides an environment in which native fisheries and other aquatic life can thrive and supports the habitat of the surrounding wildlife as well. This in turn benefits Maine Guides who depend upon these waterways, fisheries, and habitats for their guiding activities. MWGO will be submitting comments to this effect, but you can help by attending the virtual public hearing on Tue Feb 16 at 3pm. Registration for the virtual public hearing [is available here](#).

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Advocacy Committee

Purpose: Support conservation of Maine's Natural Resources.
Possible activities might include:

- Develop a list of possible legislative and administrative actions to follow and provide comment on during 2021.
- Support continued access for Maine Registered Guides on private and public lands
- Encourage management of Maine's wildlife - both game and non-game species - for recreational viewing and other benefits in addition to the traditional focus on management of game species for harvest

Membership Committee

Purpose: Increase membership by providing meaningful benefits.
Possible activities might include:

- Provide additional benefits to current and future members that are important and valuable to them
- Work with the communication committee to revise website, write e-mail campaign, update brochures for distribution as part of a membership campaign

We look forward to seeing the work of these committees over the coming year (and beyond)! Looking farther into the future, the MWGO board would like to begin holding an annual rendezvous again, where Guides can come together to share and learn from each other. We would like to create opportunities for individual Maine Guides to learn more about sporting camps, to develop mutually beneficial relationships with the Office of Tourism and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and to raise the visibility of Maine Guides who provide unique experiences connecting people with Maine's incredible natural landscapes. We believe there are many opportunities to continue to advocate for the protection of Maine's environmental resources while creating more business for Maine Guides that in turn supports robust local economies.

Field Tested Recipe: Bannock on a Stick

What would a traditional wilderness trip be without bannock? This bread, originally of Scottish explorers and trappers, then adopted and adapted by the indigenous peoples of North America, is quick, simple, and delicious!

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons milk powder
- 3 tablespoons shortening (lard, butter, bacon grease, canola oil)

Mix ingredients well, assuring even distribution of shortening throughout mixture. Slowly add water while mixing to create a dough ball. Form dough into ½" diameter snake or cigar shapes, wrap around the end of a green stick, and slowly roast over a hot coal fire, rotating until golden brown.

For extra flavor, add raisins, cranberries, blueberries or other dried fruits to your dough and/or top with sunflower, pumpkin, flax, sesame, or similar seeds. Serve with butter, honey, or jam.

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

Send your submission to: newsletter@mwgo.org!

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Tips from the Pros: The 3 W's

By now, we are all too familiar with the 3 W's of the Pandemic (Wear a mask, Watch your distance, and Wash your hands), but how well do you know the 3 W's of Outdoor Clothing Layers?

The Wicking layer draws moisture away from the skin, the Warmth layer provides insulation by capturing body heat in small trapped air pockets, and the Weather layer provides protection from the elements.

Invasive of the Month: Asiatic Bittersweet



This non-native, invasive woody vine twines around mature trees, climbs high into the canopy, and smothers them. The plant also sprawls over low-growing vegetation. This bittersweet species arrived in the U.S. about 150 years ago as an ornamental.

The fruit persists into winter and is a key way to identify the plant, though the yellow skin may be gone. In the spring and summer the round or elliptical leaves grow 2-4" long and alternate on the branch. Invasive plants out-compete native species, negatively impact animal habitat, and directly threaten Maine's natural landscape. Photo Credit: Maine DACF

From the Field



The sun rises to the north of the Bald Plates, as seen from a frozen Lake Umbagog. Photo Credit: Jay "Mac" Davis

Upcoming Events and Dates

- Feb 3-Mar 3: [Bryant Pond 4H Outdoor Skills Workshops](#)
- Feb 16, 3pm: DMR Virtual Public Hearing Re: Kennebec River Fish Restoration Plan. [Registration available here.](#)
- Feb 28-Jun 13: [Maine Recreational Guide Course](#) by North Star Adventures, Unity, ME. Module format, register by module or for the full course consisting of two days, four evenings, and one canoeing weekend. Contact Nancy Zane: (207) 956-0045 or NorthStarAdventures1@gmail.com.

MWGO Professional Members are eligible for a \$50 reimbursement (\$25 for Supporting Members) for WFA, WAFA, WFR, WEMT or Recertification Courses.