

Maine Wilderness Guides Org.

An Association of Registered Maine Guides



MWGO eNews, vol 6: March 2021

MWGO Committee Spotlight: Advocacy

Melanie Sturm (Committee Chair)

The MWGO Board voted to support three bills as priorities during the 130th Legislature. Below is a summary of each of the bills. For more information, please reach out to Melanie Sturm, Advocacy Committee Chair, at msturm@nrcom.org.

MWGO is supporting **LD 471** – An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands – sponsored by Sen. Russell Black of Franklin County. This bill would require the approval of two-thirds of the Legislature for any use of public reserved lands for transmission lines and facilities and certain other projects. Because the bill, if enacted, would apply retroactively to September 16, 2014, it would void Central Maine Power's lease on land owned by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL). LD 471 is necessary and MWGO supports it because Central Maine Power was illegally granted a lease by BPL for the New England Clean Energy Connect project. CMP sidestepped legislative approval and purposefully avoided public scrutiny of its project. Article IX, Section 23 of the Maine Constitution and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-A requires two-thirds vote of the Legislature to approve a substantial change of use on public reserve lands, which applies to NECEC. LD 471 will correct missteps made by BPL and hold them accountable. A public hearing was held by the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee and a work session has yet to be scheduled, which is when the Committee will vote on whether to move the bill forward to the full House and Senate.

MWGO is supporting **LD 983** – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation – sponsored by Sen. Cathy Breen of Cumberland County. This bill would put an \$80 million bond question to voters to fund the Land for Maine's Future Program at \$60 million and Maine State Parks at \$20 million over five years. LMF has not received funding since 2012 and the program as run out of money, yet LMF is the state's most effective land conservation program and the primary way the state acquires new public land. Maine State Parks face a \$50 million maintenance backlog and have been chronically underfunded. New funding for both state programs is badly needed to advance conservation and public access efforts in the state. A public hearing has not yet been scheduled for LD 983, which will go before the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

Continued on next page

Short Bytes:

Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby – Maine's First Guide

With the passing of a bill on March 19, 1897, Maine's legislature required hunting guides to register with the state. While there were 1316 Guides registered in that first year, Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby was the first. Born in Phillips, ME, Crosby promoted Maine's outdoor sports at metropolitan shows, wrote a popular column that appeared in newspapers nationwide, and served as a role model to young women around the country, thanks to her personal philosophy of athleticism and independence. Her efforts attracted thousands of outdoors men and women, tourists, and wilderness visitors, spanning multiple generations, to the woods and streams of Maine. In honor of Women's History Month, MWGO recognizes the significant impact of Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby on the guiding industry that still thrives today, thanks in large part to women like her.



Governor Mills' "Moving Maine Forward" Plan and Additional Travel Resources and Protocols

On March 5th, Governor Janet Mills announced the "Moving Maine Forward" plan "to protect public health and support Maine's economy during our busy tourism season." The plan provides clear and predictable guidance for Maine people, businesses, and visitors to plan for the summer and further establishes Maine as a safe place to visit. The plan focuses on three key areas: maintaining and updating the health and safety protocols and checklists; establishing straightforward and consistent capacity percentages for indoor and outdoor gatherings; and updating travel policies established last summer. Full details of the plan can be found here: [Moving Maine Forward](#) and both general and industry-specific prevention checklists can be found here: [COVID-19 Prevention Checklists](#).

Additionally, the [Maine Tourism Association's Travel Resources](#) and the [Maine Office of Tourism's Travel Protocols](#) have each been updated to reflect the Moving Maine Forward plan and associated guidance to support businesses and visitors in their safe travel to and recreation within Maine. Here's looking forward to a safe and healthy summer tourism season!

Continued from previous page

MWGO is supporting **LD 125** – An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture – sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson of Aroostook County. This bill would ban aerially spraying of glyphosate, a widely used but highly toxic herbicide, in forestry operations. Research has found that glyphosate is likely carcinogenic and has been linked to certain types of cancer. According to several studies, glyphosate also has adverse ecological effects on some amphibians, pollinator insects, mollusks, fishes, soil microbes, algae, and other species. Glyphosate should not be aerially sprayed, as it can drift onto neighboring sites and can pollute waterways. Because large industrial landowners in Maine’s North Woods use glyphosate, it poses a risk to Maine Guides and the natural resources we rely on. A public hearing and work session took place for LD 125 at the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee but another work session is being scheduled so Committee members can continue to hear from experts on glyphosate, its impacts, and its uses.

MWGO and its Advocacy Committee will identify the appropriate measures to take for each piece of legislation, potentially including signing on to existing letters of support, writing our own letter of support, or providing written or spoken testimony. The Advocacy Committee will keep the membership updated on the progress of these three priority bills, and others, over the course of the legislative session.

Field Tested Recipe: Tabasco, the secret ingredient



Green or red, it really does go with (almost) everything! Spice up a burger, add some flavor to mac and cheese, add a little to the pan while cooking bacon and/or eggs, put some kick into your stir fry rice and veggies, anything with rice and beans could use a little Tabasco, and of course you can’t have tuna without Tabasco (seriously, you need to try this if you haven’t yet)!

From the Field



Freezing fog on the Presumpscot from February 10, 2021.
Photo Credit: Jeanne Christie

Invasive of the Month: Burning Bush



This non-native, invasive, broadly branched shade-tolerant shrub grows up to 15 feet tall. Stems are vibrant green with raised, tan, or brown corky “wings”, a key identification mark and why the plant is also called winged euonymus. The red-orange seed is surrounded by purple fleshy coverings and is eaten by birds, which disperse them. The plant also expands from root sprouts and is difficult to eradicate. The plant originated in Asia and was imported as an ornamental because of its vivid red leaves in the fall. For property owners native viburnum and dogwood shrubs provide valuable food and shelter for more wildlife in addition to aesthetically beautiful foliage. Photo credit: Tomas Dundzila

Guide Tips: Ziplocs are gold!

The humble Ziploc becomes as good as gold in the backcountry, serving all sorts of purposes. For the camp kitchen, reduce trash and wasted space when packing by using a Ziploc to hold the contents of otherwise inefficient packaging (just remember to cut out and include the instructions), keep foods separate and safe from accidental spills, pre-mix dry ingredients into a Ziploc so you can just add water or other wet ingredients in the field, and collect trash into sealed and compressed packaging. In your pack, keep dry clothing separate from that pair of socks that didn’t dry out yet and keep emergency supplies like matches, a lighter, fire starters, toilet paper, and emergency socks/underwear inside an added layer of dry protection. When dry matters, Ziploc’s get the job done!



Upcoming Events and Dates

- 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, WAFWA, WFR, WEMT or Recertification Courses.

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

Send your submission to: newsletter@mwgo.org!