

Maine Wilderness Guides Org.

An Association of Registered Maine Guides



MWGO eNews, vol 13: September 2021

An Invitation to the MWGO Annual Meeting

Jeanne Christie, MWGO President

I am looking forward to MWGO's 2021 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, October 24 at [The Birches Resort](#) in Rockwood, Maine. We are sincerely grateful to long time member and current board member John Willard who is hosting the meeting. You are invited to attend in person or virtually and I hope you will join us, for all or even just part of the day, however you are most comfortable!

Tentative Agenda

9:00 Early arrivals – Coffee and conversation
10:00 MWGO Board meeting (all members welcome!) *
11:00 MWGO Annual meeting *
12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Group/Small Group Discussions: Connect with other Guides, share your challenges, successes, and interests, and help inform MWGO's activities in the coming year. We invite you to use this as an opportunity to get more involved with MWGO! *

3:00 Hang out and talk for a spell: The board and committee members would love the opportunity to get to know you better!

4:00 Depart

*All formal activities, except lunch, can be joined virtually.

In order to help us know how many people to plan for, we will send out a registration form for the meeting around October 11. You will be able to indicate whether you plan to attend in person or remotely and for all or just part of the day. Virtual attendance by Zoom is free. For those joining us in person, there is a \$25 registration cost, to be paid upon arrival, which covers morning coffee and lunch. We know it is a long way for some of you, so lodging is available Saturday night before the meeting: \$100 for a private cabin of one person or \$75 per person for more than one person in a cabin (cabins vary in size and can have up to four bedrooms) and \$50 per person to stay in one of the lodge rooms. If you would like to reserve lodging, please contact [The Birches Resort](#) directly at: 207-534-7588 or email: info@birches.com.

What about the pandemic? While there are members who would really like to get together in person, if virtual attendance through Zoom is most comfortable for you, that will be an option so please use it. It is our hope that the current guidance and conditions will allow us to safely hold an in-person meeting. We will review the guidance and conditions to make a final decision before we send out the online registration form about Oct 11.

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From the Field



Harvest Moon over Ocean Point, Boothbay

Photo Credit: [Michael Leonard](#) via the [Boothbay Register](#)

Upcoming Events and Dates

- Oct 22-24: [Registered Maine Guide School](#) at Northeast Whitewater and Guide Service in Shirley, ME. Contact info@northeastwhitewater.com or 207-695-0151 for more.
- Oct 22-23 and 22-24: Wilderness First Aid and WFR/WEMT Recertification Courses by Jon Tierney of LifeFlight at Mahoosuc Guide Service, Newry, ME. Contact Polly Mahoney at mahoosucguides@gmail.com or 207-824-2073.
- Oct 24: MWGO Annual Meeting and Banquet at The Birches in Rockwood, ME. See feature article for more info.

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

Short Bytes: Polly Mahoney of Mahoosuc Guides featured in MaineBiz's 2022 Women to Watch

In the 1980s, Polly Mahoney, a Maine native, spent a decade living a semi-subsistence lifestyle in the Yukon Territory in northwest Canada. A horse wrangler and cook, her huskies were essential to survival, hauling wood and water and serving as primary winter transportation. Back in Maine, she's a Master Maine Guide, certified in wilderness first aid, and co-founded Mahoosuc Guide Service in Newry in 1990, offering dog sledding, canoe and fishing trips in New England and Canada. She develops eco-cultural tourism with indigenous people in Maine and Canada, mentors apprentices in guiding and animal care, and inspires young woman-leaders through community outreach at schools and colleges. [Read the full MaineBiz story.](#)

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Accomplishments 2021: Building capacity and visibility have been at the forefront for the past year. Education, Advocacy, Communication and Membership committees were formed and met regularly to implement the 2021 strategic action plan. The monthly eNews increased our visibility to the membership on a regular interval. The Membership Committee helped identify the steps needed to improve the benefits, both tangible and intangible, of being an MWGO member so that we can increase our membership numbers. And the Advocacy Committee helped MWGO provide a voice for our members in Augusta, identifying priority bills and issues on which to speak up!

Looking ahead to 2022: In the coming year, we hope to provide educational opportunities to learn and improve field skills and acquire business savvy. We intend to enhance our social media presence and we would like to create opportunities for guides and prospective guides to gather to share and create a sense of community. Of course, protection and conservation of Maine's natural resources remains a high priority for the organization. We are asking you to provide us with concrete ideas about how to achieve these and other goals. You can start that conversation by filling out our survey. If you did not complete it when it was distributed a few days ago, please do so now. And, if we are not raising issues or topics that are important to you, please let us know when you fill it out.

How can I get more involved? Individuals have reached out to us throughout the year interested in becoming more active with MWGO. By joining the board or a committee, or by providing a skill we need to improve the organization, they are making important contributions. We are still looking for volunteers! If you are interested or just curious, please contact me or one of the board members for more information.

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on October 24!

Guide Tips: It's sweater weather time!



In September and October, temperatures can swing close to 40 degrees from early morning lows to mid-day highs and back to cooler evenings, so don't forget to grab a sweater and be prepared to peel off a layer as it warms up and put it back on as it cools off again!

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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Short Bytes: North Maine Woods retiring director Al Cowperthwaite leaves a legacy of access

After 39 years as the director of the North Maine Woods, Al Cowperthwaite will retire at the end of this month with a legacy of maintaining alliances between outdoor enthusiasts and the forest companies that own much of the land. North Maine Woods Inc. was created in 1971, becoming a nonprofit a decade later. It manages access and recreational opportunities to 3.5 million acres of wild forestland in northwest Maine, making certain that the forest-products companies are able to log their land without interference. The area, which accounts for 16 percent of the state's geography, is a veritable playground to fishermen, hunters, hikers and campers that is teeming with moose, deer, grouse, black bear, native brook trout, and a suite of boreal songbirds. To many of the guides, sportsmen, snowmobilers and sporting camp owners who travel the hundreds of miles of logging roads in the North Maine Woods for work, that access is no small privilege, and a credit to Cowperthwaite. [Read the full Portland Press Herald article.](#)

Invasive of the Month: Multiflora or Rambler Rose *Rosa multiflora*

Multiflora rose is found in forest edges, old fields, and disturbed sites, such as forest interiors after a disturbance such as a timber harvest. This species was first brought to the United States from Asia in the 1880's, and used as a rootstock for grafting cultivated roses. Later it was planted along highways, as a living fence, an erosion control agent, and to attract wildlife. Multiflora is widespread and very invasive in Maine. The picture shows a



compound leaf, normally consisting of 5-11 toothed leaflets. Also notice the recursive thorn near the end of the twig. The white to pale pink flowers blossom at twig tips in June, and turn into 1/4" round or oblong, red, rose hips (fruit) in the late summer. The hips last on the plant into winter. Mammals and birds, especially the Northern mockingbird, eat the fruit and disperse the seeds, which are viable in soil for up to 20 years. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but Multiflora and its seaside cousin Rugose (or Beach rose) out-compete native species and degrade Maine's natural habitat.

Photo credit: Tomas Dundzila