

Maine Wilderness Guides Org.

An Association of Registered Maine Guides



MWGO eNews, vol 14: October 2021

A Report from the MWGO 2021 Annual Meeting

*Jeanne Christie and Reid Anderson,
MWGO President and Vice President*

We did it! We met simultaneously in-person and remotely at The Birches Resort in Rockwood for our annual meeting on Sunday Oct 24. A speaker phone, cameras and a monitor brought those participating remotely right into the room. It felt wonderful to spend time talking and planning for the coming year.

We've made so much progress! MWGO has established four active committees: communication, advocacy, education and membership. A monthly electronic newsletter is being published and sent to all members. We have surveyed our membership to learn about their concerns and priorities. We have grown our board and it is wonderful to have a combination of new and experienced talents and skill sets represented.

Plans are underway to post to Facebook regularly, redesign the website, and review and update the bylaws. It is a high priority to establish meaningful membership benefits and a major part of that is revitalizing our educational activities in response to feedback from our members. In November the board is meeting with the Commissioner and senior staff at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to share concerns and explore opportunities to work together on common goals.

Advocacy: Melanie Sturm indicated that the Katahdin Woods and Waters management plan has not yet been released. We will let the membership know when it becomes available. The Advocacy committee will continue to follow and comment on the rezoning by LUPC in the Moosehead Lake region. Looking toward next year, two possible areas of activity may be 1) removal of dams on the lower Kennebec; and 2) LD 1626, a bill that would grant tribes in Maine the same rights granted to tribes in the other 49 states.

Communication: The communication committee is in the process of reviewing and updating printed information about MWGO and a plan has been drafted to get weekly or twice weekly postings on Facebook in order to increase our public visibility in both printed and social media formats. A redesign of the MWGO website is another goal of the committee in the coming year.

Education: The pandemic made it a challenging year for the education committee. MWGO did participate in the Maine Canoe

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From the Field



Looking out at the cliffs over Fourth Debsconeag Lake in Wabanaki Homeland on Indigenous Peoples' Day, Mon Oct 11.
Photo Credit: Greg Shute

Upcoming Events and Dates

- Nov 9 at 6pm: [From Greenville to Belfast, a 300 mile paddling journey](#). Online presentation by MWGO Board Member Jaclyn Stratton. [Register for this free program here](#).
- Dec 15-19: [Winter Guide Training](#) at Mahoosuc Guide Service, Newry, ME. Contact Polly Mahoney at mahoosucguides@gmail.com or 207-824-2073.
- Jan 15-17: [Registered Maine Guide School](#) at Northeast Whitewater and Guide Service in Shirley, ME. Contact info@northeastwhitewater.com or 207-695-0151 for more.

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

Short Bytes: IF&W relocating headquarters to downtown Augusta

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is expected to relocate its headquarters by the end of October to a Water Street location overlooking the Kennebec River. The move is intended to consolidate the department and bring together some functions into a single office. In all, about 100 department employees will move to 353 Water St., the former home of the Maine State Housing Authority. [Read the full CentralMaine.com article](#).

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Symposium; but other activities in the works have not yet come to fruition. The survey of MWGO members indicated that training in natural history and in cultural and human history are important to the membership. The committee is pursuing a two-pronged approach to educational programming: meeting the needs for developing professional skills for guides and educating the public on safety in outdoor activities, e.g. ice safety in the winter and boat safety in the spring. Delivery formats will also take a two-pronged approach, both in-person and online.

Membership: There has been an 11% increase in membership in 2021. Revising and improving on membership benefits is a primary focus for the committee in the coming months to support our current membership and attract new members.

Elected for a term of three years (2021-2024) term were: Treasurer, Tomas Dundzila and Board members: Kevin Casey, Ken Gross, Sean McCormick, Adam Raven, Jackie Stratton and John Wright.

The new board members will join current officers Jeanne Christie, President, Reid Anderson, Vice President, Mac Davis, Secretary and board members: Bryan Courtois, Kevin Slater, Melanie Sturm, and John Willard. We are deeply grateful for the many contributions of departing board members Nick Leadley and Lynne Zimmerman

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!

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Vice President, Reid Anderson: reidsanderson@gmail.com

Guide Tips: Don't throw away those pumpkins!

Those pumpkins can serve valuable purposes to wildlife after their decorative purpose has been served. From composting to feeding local birds and wildlife (and the associated photo opportunities) to feeding the bees next year, there are plenty of options for putting that Jack-o-lantern to good use long after Halloween! Check out [this blog post](#) from the National Wildlife Federation for more detail and ideas.



Squirrel in a pumpkin by [National Wildlife Photo Contest](#) entrant Katherine Flickinger

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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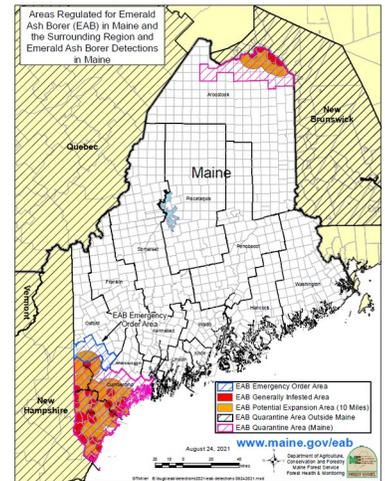
Short Bytes: Wolfden Mining Proposal Withdrawn

An Ontario-based company withdrew its application for zoning changes necessary for a large-scale mining operation in northern Maine, but the company's CEO suggested the application would be resubmitted at a later date. The announcement by Wolfden Resources on Oct 13 came as the Land Use Planning Commission appeared to be poised to reject the application, Maine Public reported. LUPC staff had previously recommended against approving the zoning changes. "Staff have identified 59 inconsistencies, errors and failures to provide information" requested by the commission, a staff analysis said. [Read the full Portland Press Herald article.](#)

Invasive of the Month: Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer Continuing to Spread

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small wood-boring beetle from Asia that was accidentally brought to North America. EAB larvae attack our native ash trees (not mountain ash) by tunneling through the conductive tissue and cutting off the flow of water and nutrients, killing trees in five years or less. Ash makes up about 4% of Maine's hardwood forests, and their loss would amount to about \$320 million. Culturally,



brown (black) ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) is a key material for traditional basket making, which is central in the cultural traditions of the Wabanaki tribes of the region.

EAB adults can fly at least 1/2 mile from the ash tree where they emerge. Infestations accelerate when people move infested ash trees from nurseries, as logs, or firewood to areas that did not have infestations. The beetles are hard to detect, but visible signs and symptoms include "blonding" of the tree caused by woodpeckers flecking the outer bark looking for EAB larvae and pupae, S-shaped tunnels under the bark, D-shaped holes left by adults as they exit trees, sprouts growing abnormally from roots and trunks, bark splitting, and the crown dying. Additional information and photos [are available here.](#)

EAB has been found in 35 states and 5 Canadian provinces since it was first discovered in Michigan in 2002. In Maine, it was first detected in the northern border town of Madawaska and in southern York County in 2018.

So what's the status of EAB in Maine? The pictured map shows that EAB continues to spread aggressively in southern Maine and slightly slower in northern Maine because of natural dispersion and by humans transporting infected wood. A quarantine is in effect in locations and their surroundings that have confirmed EAB infestations. The quarantine restricts the movement of ash from an infested area to an area outside the quarantine zone. If you suspect Emerald Ash Borer has infested an ash tree, [report it to the Maine DACE.](#)