



Naturalist Corner—Apples

By Shannon LeRoy

The full moon in October is called the Hunters Moon but it really should be called the Apple Moon. October is the month for apples. It is the time of year when fresh apple cider shows up on the shelves at the grocery store. And the produce department fills up with different kinds of local freshly grown apples. Many lucky souls are harvesting their own apples from the trees in their back yard. And others people are making the annual trek to the local orchards to get a bushel or two in order to put some by for the winter.



The history of the apple stretches even to the tales of the bible. We do know that the first apples came from central Asia. Eastern Turkey was once the Mecca of apples. Alexander the Great is credited with finding dwarfed apples in Asia Minor in 300 BC. He even sent several trees back to his teacher Aristotle.

Much of the ado about apples might just be a misinterpretation. Before the 17th century the Greek word for "apple" was a generic term meaning any fruit or nut. Add to that the fact that the Latin word for apple is nearly identical to its word for evil. (*Malus*-apple, *Malum*-evil) Stir in the fact that the "Forbidden Fruit" of the bible was never specifically identified one can see why many have put an apple in Eve's hands.

Apple trees are "self-incompatible", which means they must have a second tree in order to produce fruit. The bee is the usual pollinator for apple trees and not all varieties of apple trees can cross pollinate.

The health benefits of apples have been touted for centuries. The proverb "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" has been traced back to 19th century Wales. Today's research suggests that apples have many health benefits. Apples may reduce the risk of colon cancer, help with heart disease, weight loss and they may control cholesterol. Also studies in mice suggest that apple juice prevents the decline of cognitive performance of aging. This to me, means that it might help with CRS (can't remember stuff!).



Maine Wilderness Guides Organization

Providing a voice to sustain, conserve and protect remote woods and waters for future generations.

Fall Newsletter

Fall 2011

Annual Meeting and Silent Auction

This event is an opportunity to bring members up to date on various initiatives and is a celebration of achievements made during the past year. This year again we will be presenting the MWGO Conservation Award which recognizes an individual for outstanding conservation leadership in the state of Maine. We are honored to present this award to Karin Tilberg for her commitment to conservation in Maine. Past recipients are Ray "Buckey" Owen and Clinton "Bill" Townsend.



Fall Fishing on Little Lyford Pond

We are fortunate to have Col. John McDonald from the Maine Warden Service as our guest speaker.

Schedule for the day

1:00 - 2:00 MWGO Annual meeting, all members welcome

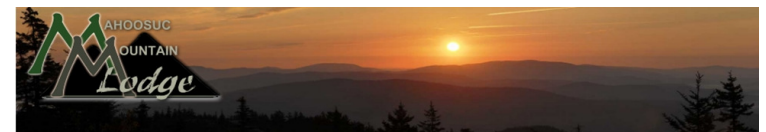
2:00 - 3:00 Guest Speaker Col. John McDonald from the Maine Warden Service talking about how wardens and Guides can work together

3:00 - 4:00 Silent Auction

4:00 - 5:00 Supper

5:00 - 6:00 MWGO Conservation Award awarded to Karin Tilberg

For reservations before Friday Oct 21, with dinner selection and/or directions visit our website www.mwgo.org.



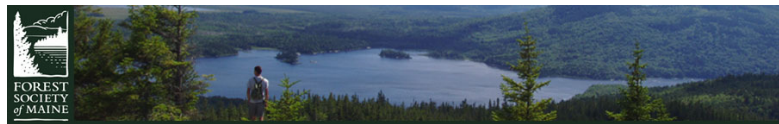
Karin Tilberg Wins Maine Wilderness Guides Conservation Award



Each year Maine Wilderness Guides Organization recognizes one person who has donated a significant amount of personal and professional time towards conservation in Maine. This year, Karin Tilberg has been selected for The Maine Wilderness Guides 2011 Conservation Award. Karin, who is now the Deputy Director of the Forest Society of Maine, has dedicated much of her life working for

conservation of Maine's forestland, wildlife habitat, water quality, and outdoor recreational resources. During her tenure as staff attorney at Maine Audubon she was instrumental in forging a partnership with Maine's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department, sportsmen, landowners, and others to adopt legislation and rules to protect critical habitat of endangered species such as bald eagles. She was also instrumental in the passage of Maine's Forest Practices Act, pollution prevention of clam flats and other natural resource protection laws. Then she moved into private practice and represented planning boards, land trusts, and non-profits before she took the position of Maine Director of the Northern Forest Alliance. While in that position Karin helped to organize a broad coalition in support of The Nature Conservancy's project to protect the Debscoveag Lakes area. The results of that effort were over 45,000 acres of land stretching from Nahmakanta Lake to the West Branch of the Penobscot being preserved in perpetuity. She also worked to support funding for other large-scale forest conservation projects such as the West Branch Project and the Downeast Lakes Project. After leaving the Northern Forest Alliance, Karin was named Deputy Commissioner of the Maine State Department of Conservation. In that job, and her later position as Senior Policy Advisor in the Governor's office, Karin was able to unite diverse state-wide interests in adopting and supporting the goal to protect Maine's natural resources and the jobs supported by those resources. This January, Karin moved on to the newly created position of Deputy Director for the Forest Society of Maine (FSM), helping to provide conservation options to private forestland owners throughout Maine's North Woods. Karin has been a long-time supporter of the Maine Wilderness Guides Organization and its mission and is an avid outdoorswoman.

For more information about the Forest Society of Maine go to:
www.fsmaine.org.



Conservation Update

By Cathy Johnson

A study committee, the majority of whom want to abolish LURC, is meeting every two weeks. It is unclear whether the end result will be ways to improve LURC or a recommendation to greatly limit its authority or abolish it. A large coalition has also formed to support LURC and to find ways to improve the commission. Most of the Committee meetings now include public listening sessions, and it is very important that these be well attended by advocates. Go to

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurcreformcommission/> for the latest times and places of the public session. MWGO should be there to support LURC, even though a listening event is not as binding as a hearing. The study committee is the first of a two-step process, the next being the legislature acting on the committee's recommendation. As difficult as it might be, given the locations of the meetings, attendance at the study committee's bi-weekly meetings by LURC supporters could prove important.

2. Land for Maine's Future is presently without funding. There is a held over bill to authorize funding, focused on farming, forestry, marine and tourism infrastructure and 24 million for the larger function of LMF—a figure that includes working waterfront protection. LMF is the most popular bond issue, so there is hope it will come back. There will be a public hearing on the land bond in November.

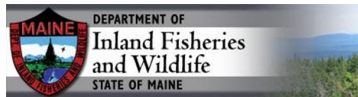
3. Roxanne Quimby has proposed to donate 70,000 acres adjacent to Baxter to the National Park Service for a national park as well as an endowment of \$20 million to be used to manage the park. Congress wants a study before land can be included in the National Park Service system, and MWGO should consider supporting the feasibility study. Public opinion in the Millinocket area, while definitely split, is more open to the possibility than in the past, one sign being the recent vote by the town of Medway to support the study.



MWGO Meets with State Officials

On August 15, 2011, Board Members of Maine Wilderness Guides Organization, Shannon LeRoy, Kevin Slater and Bryan Courtios met with Deputy Director Andrea Erskine, Lt. Cornel Joel Wilkensen of the Maine Warden Service, John Bolen, IF&W fisheries and Edie Smith, communications to talk about ways that Maine Wilderness Guides Organization and the State can work together.

Subjects discussed during this three hour meeting included our guides working with Maine Wardens in community education programs, stronger requirements on first aid for Registered Maine Guides, both for new guides and for renewal of guides licenses, Maine's Deer Management plan, and our concerns with the composition and qualifications of Maine Guide Advisory Board and Maine Oral Exam Leaders. Also discussed was MWGO's concern with the protection of native brook trout and blueback char fisheries. The whole meeting was positive. Our goal is to set up quarterly meetings with IF&W to have an open and ongoing dialogue about issues of concern to MWGO and to identify ways we can support wardens and vice versa.



Wilderness Guides Organization

Board of Directors

David Butler	Gary Roberts
Bryan Courtois	Ted Rodman
Mac Davis	Greg Shute
Lisa Dehart	Kevin Slater
Cathy Johnson	Greg Shute
Shannon LeRoy	Kevin Slater
David Mention	Bill Richards



Wilderness Guides Outdoor Education Fund on the Horizon

The ground work has been done for the Wilderness Guides Outdoor Education Fund. This 501 c 3 entity of MWGO will give the organization the ability to raise money for the education programs that we would like to provide to the public and to members. This fund has been designed to:

- Offer continuing education and professional development for guides, trip leaders and outdoor educators.
- Inform and educate the public on safety issues, planning and actions through publishing, Public Service Advertising (PSA) and workshops related to outdoor endeavors, including hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping and winter activities
- To educate the public to the importance of protecting and conserving wild, undeveloped wild areas for outdoor recreation and d) to educate the public as to the importance of large scale wildlife habitat protection and wildlife management programs.

Wilderness Guide
Outdoor Education
Fund



The new board will contain the President, Secretary and Treasurer of MWGO plus four to six more members. If any one is interested in getting involved and becoming a board_member contact an officer or board member or send an email to info@mwgo.org.



For more info go to www.mwgo.org



MWGO 2011 Advocacy Summary

2011 was a busy year for advocacy because of the many bills that were proposed which related to issues that affect our environment and our way of life. During the winter/spring session of the legislature we notified our membership of over 50 bills that were filed for legislative consideration.

And there were two important bills on which MWGO members gave testimony on:

LD 55 - The act to restore hunting in the Katahdin Lakes Region—Which MWGO members were against

and

LD 1534 - The act to dissolve LURC and turn over zoning in the UT to the County Commissioners—Which MWGO members argued against.

Besides that MWGO developed two major policies:

MWGO's White-tailed Deer Policy



The Maine Wilderness Guides Organization after listening to our membership, speaking to Maine's Deer and Moose Biologist, and studying Maine's White tailed Deer Management Plan and Goals have decided that the management of our deer herds are best handled for the long term by people who specialize and understand deer herd management. In the recent past a some sportsman groups have come out with their own idea on

how our white-tailed deer herds should be managed and they are pushing for special legislation to support their own idea of how Maine's white-tailed deer population should be managed. The Maine Wilderness Guides Organization feels that these groups with single minded goals cannot and should not be allowed to interfere with the overall working plan that Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has in place. The IF&W

works its management plan on a long term vision and the vision takes into account many different issues which influence deer populations. They review deer populations annually make adjustments in order to reach the long term goals that have been set up for each of the different Wildlife Management Districts. We do not feel that the IF&W have mismanaged the states deer herd but that forces like bad winters and the removal of deer habitat are to blame for the decline in white-tailed deer in northern and eastern wildlife management districts. Therefore MWGO advocates for the State of ME to work toward obtaining critical deer yards.

AND MWGO's Wind Power Policy

The Maine Wilderness Guides Organization believes that wind power provides important public benefits, because it is a renewable source of energy that does not pollute our air or water. In addition, wind power has significant advantages for the economy; wind farms also provide local economic benefits in the form of fuel price stability, employment, and tax revenue. Our concern is for Maine's significant natural resources, recreational view sites, fragmentation of wild forest lands, and wind power generation potential to have significant impact wildlife. As wilderness guides our livelihood and longtime traditions depend on having areas where human impact is at a minimum and where the view shed is not impacted by wind power generation. Therefore the Wilderness Maine Guides Organization advocates for a strict siting policy and procedures to insure the least amount of impact.

