



APRIL 2025

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HOW TO SPOT A MOOSE

VANESSA LEMANSKI

Maine boasts an estimated moose population of approximately 76,000, ranking second in the nation for the highest statewide moose population, behind only Alaska. As the state animal, moose captivate both locals and visitors alike, offering a magnificent sight to behold. These majestic creatures can reach an impressive height of up to 7 feet at the shoulder (excluding their impressive antlers!) and weigh over 1,000 pounds. If you haven't had the chance to witness a moose in its natural habitat, it's an experience you simply can't miss.

WHEN TO LOOK: Moose are often out and about from mid-spring to mid-July, venturing out to feast on fresh vegetation after the long winter. Activity slows down during the late summer and picks back up again in the fall when they become very active for

their mating season. You have the best chance of spotting a moose at dawn or dusk. They like to be out and about when it isn't too hot so as to avoid heat stress. While they are sometimes spotted during the day, it is less likely. But be careful because during the twilight hours, it is easy for moose to blend into their surroundings, making it more difficult to see them on the road. You definitely want to drive slowly and keep an eye out when traveling through Moose Country!

WHERE TO LOOK: Moose prefer watery areas, so be sure to visit bogs, marshes, and rivers. Also, watch the treeline when driving through heavily wooded areas, you might see one hiding in the trees.

BEST LOCATIONS FOR MOOSE WATCHING: In the Moosehead Lake region, moose outnumber people 3 to 1. If you are hoping to catch a glimpse of a moose while driving, there are quite a few roads that are known for having moose step out in plain sight. The section of Route 6 between Dover-Foxcroft and Greenville is very active, especially by the Shirley Bog. Route 201 is nicknamed "Moose Alley." It runs next to the Kennebec River in the Forks, an area which the moose love. The Golden Road, which runs by Baxter State Park, is great for moose watching as long as you have a tough vehicle. If you have time to explore, the wilderness of Baxter State Park is a moose haven. Kokadjo, just north of Greenville, is one of the best areas to camp out for moose. It is home to Lazy Tom Bog, which is Maine's moose-watching capital.

If waiting around isn't your thing, try going on a guided moose tour. There are plenty of guide services in the area, such as **Northeast Whitewater**, **Young's Guide Service**, **Moosehead Area Guide Services**, and **Northwoods Outfitters**. Northeast Whitewater and Young's Guide Service specialize in more customized, personalized tours, while Moosehead Area Guide Services and Northwoods Outfitters offer more group tours. You can find tours on land or by boat. While you aren't guaranteed to see a moose, many guide services have "secret spots" for moose watching that you'd never find out about otherwise, and these adventures are fun to experience either way. Regardless of how you go about seeing a moose, be sure to keep a safe distance and not disturb the creatures!





DOVER-FOXCROFT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARY ANNIS

George Dunham, born and raised on Dawes Road, was deeply fond of an old blacksmith shop just up the road from his home. Built in 1863 by Nicholas Chandler, the forge stood as a testament to the town's past. However, as many old buildings succumbed to neglect, the shop faced imminent demolition.

In 1963, George convened a meeting at Central Hall with neighbors and town residents to address the impending loss of this historical gem. The gathering was well-attended, and a consensus was reached to establish a historical society dedicated to preserving the shop.

Work commenced in 1964 and was completed in 1967, marking a significant milestone in the preservation of the forge. To celebrate this achievement, a grand celebration was held on July 4, 1966, with an open house showcasing the completed restoration.

In 2014, a forge was constructed next to the shop, providing a space for public blacksmith demonstrations. This new forge, named the Dunham Forge, further enriched the town's cultural heritage and allowed visitors to witness the art of blacksmithing firsthand.

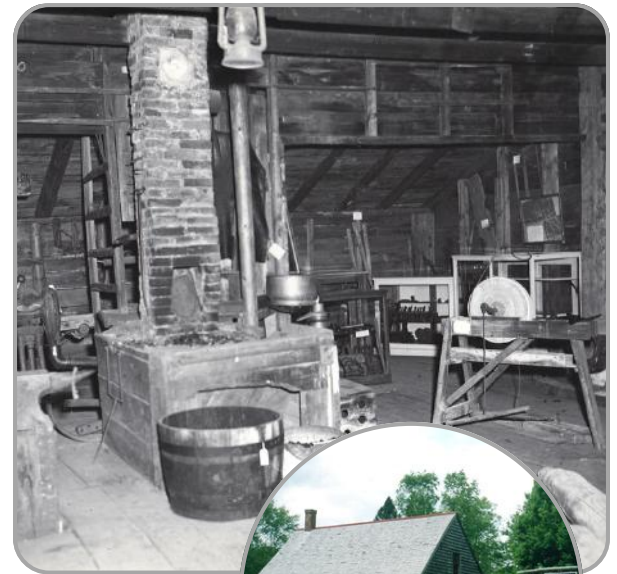
George remained president until his passing in 1991. The society struggled until 1995 when, with only four members, they received an offer from Northeast Publishing. The publishing company wanted to donate the Observer Building in downtown Dover-Foxcroft to the society. They no longer needed a large building and were happy with a storefront on Union Square.

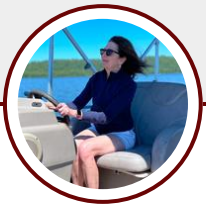
Madelyn Betts, the society's secretary since its inception, called for a public meeting at the Thompson Free Library. About 25 people attended, and it was decided to revitalize the society. A new slate of officers was elected, with Madelyn continuing as secretary.

The society accepted the Observer Building offer, and now it houses a museum on the first floor, a library and archive storage and cataloging on the second floor, and a quarterly newsletter published since 1996. Three public meetings are held annually, and workdays occur every Thursday. The society now has approximately 300 members.

Dues are kept low, at \$10 or \$7 for those over 65, and a newsletter is sent four times a year. The blacksmith shop is open throughout the summer, and the Observer Building is open on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm or by appointment.

Visit www.dover-foxcrofthistoricalsociety.org or follow us on Facebook for updates on events. We welcome anyone interested in history to join our society.





THE SOUTHERN BELLE

LISA MCNAMARA

DO YOU BELIEVE IN DESTINY?

Last year, when we decided to move to Guilford, Maine, I had a very romantic idea of what it would be like. I was picturing Cabot Cove—you know the coastal town where Jessica Fletcher wrote murder mysteries, and rode around town on her bike waving to all the residents. I insisted that we sell my car and that I get a bicycle. But not just any bike. It had to be a cool bike like Jessica rode on “Murder She Wrote.” I wanted high handle bars, a basket, and a bell so I could ring it as I approached my neighbors and, of course the sheriff, incase he needed my help to solve a mystery.

John had ordered the bike, and it was waiting for me when I arrived in Guilford in June. Not only was it everything I had wanted, but it even had a name painted on the bars, “DESTINY.” I interpreted that as a great sign that I was meant to move to Maine, that I was destined to explore the town by bike, waving to people, ringing my bell, and even putting groceries in my basket (you know, the baguette and flowers). I was filled with excitement and eagerness to hit the open road.

There were some hiccups for my new found destiny with “Destiny.” Guilford is not on the coast. Guilford has a lot of hills. Guilford was in the middle of “black fly” season - the weather was hot, and I forgot that I had not been on a bike in 20 years. While wobbly at first, it is true about what they say about riding a bike... it comes back to you. What doesn’t come back so quickly is the strength to pedal up hill on a bike with no gears.

I practiced riding in our driveway, which has a hill, so I could only ride down and then I had to push “Destiny” back up the hill to repeat the downhill ride. Eventually, I advanced to doing figure eights in the parking lot of the bakery next door. I suspect the neighbors thought it was a bit strange to see a 50-something lady riding in circles, ringing a bell on a bike that I am pretty sure was meant for a child. My destiny wasn’t looking anything like I had planned, and to add insult to my broken plan (my destiny), my 15-year old son asked me, EVERY DAY, “When are you going to ride your bike past the bakery?”

I finally got the courage to take “Destiny” out on the open road in September, when the temperature began to drop. I walked “Destiny” past the hills to the flat stretch of road that connects Guilford to Dover-Foxcroft. There “Destiny” and I zoomed down the road, giving a little “ching-ching” as we passed houses and cars. I didn’t know the people I was ringing my bell for, but I’d like to think it made them smile. I did. It was fun. Looking back, I wish I had been braver sooner. A bike as wonderful as “Destiny” should be on the open road frequently.

For those wondering if “Destiny” and I hit the road in the winter months, the answer is a hard “no.” “Destiny” is far too delicate for the snow. She is patiently waiting in the carriage house until Spring. Now, I’m rethinking my plans for “Destiny.” I don’t think we’ll be filling her basket with baguettes and flowers, and I’m quite certain that the sheriff won’t ask us to assist in solving any murder mysteries. Perhaps I’ll allow destiny to guide our next steps, both for her and for me. If you reside in Guilford or are passing through, keep an ear out for a “ching-ching.” When you hear it, you’ll know that “Destiny” and I are close.



DINING IN THE MAINE HIGHLANDS

VANESSA LEMANSKI

The Maine Highlands area is home to a diverse collection of restaurants and eateries, each unique in its own way. Whether you are looking for simple diner food or elevated culinary experiences, there is something for everyone.

BREAKFAST: *Spencer's Bakery & Cafe* in Guilford is very popular among locals. They serve classic American breakfast dishes and offer a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. The food is always yummy and the portions are hearty. On top of their great breakfasts, the bakery is stocked with freshly-baked muffins, donuts, pies, and more! If you are looking for a more eclectic breakfast experience, then check out *The Mill Cafe* in Dover-Foxcroft. Their hand-crafted coffees and fresh ingredients are sure to start your morning off right. They even offer dinner on select nights! In Sebec, *Belle Boulangerie* bakes the most delectable, authentic French pastries. Their flavor and quality are unmatched, and are a wonderful treat.



CASUAL DINING: *The Red Maple Inn* in Guilford has local charm aplenty, as most of its clientele are locals. They serve pub grub and have Maine craft brews on tap. They have weekly specials and often have live music. *The Lakeshore House* in Monson is right on the edge of the Appalachian Trail. During the summertime, you can find the bar full of hikers, tourists, and locals. You can always count on the food being good. You can't beat their view of Lake Hebron and the fun, unique atmosphere. *The Stress Free Moose* in Greenville is a pub that offers enticing specials and great cocktails. They are a hotspot during the tourist season. They host trivia nights and live music weekly. For some seriously good pizza and dagwoods, head to *Jamo's Pizza* in Greenville. Some would say it is the best pizza in Piscataquis County.

FINE DINING: *The Quarry* in Monson is an upscale restaurant that offers a multi-course set menu. The owner/chef has recently won a James Beard Award. It is a very cool experience to be able to enjoy in such a small area. They do require reservations and book out in advance, so be sure to call ahead! *The Slate Restaurant* in Greenville is one of only two Relais & Chateaux restaurants in Maine. They serve a menu with an emphasis on seasonal ingredients grown in their garden or sourced locally. It is nestled in the Blair Hill Inn, and offers an unbeatable view of Moosehead Lake and the surrounding mountains. *368 Maine* is a DiRoNa award-winning restaurant located inside The Lodge at Moosehead Lake, also in Greenville. They offer Chef's Tasting Dinners only on a few dates throughout each year, and you have to sign up for them in advance!





BREWERIES: Local breweries in the Maine Highlands always promise a good time. ***Two Knights Brewing Company*** in Sangerville offers an array of craft brews - locals and travelers rave about their beer and food. They offer live bands all summer long. Check out their Facebook page for a schedule. ***Turning Page Farm Brewery*** in Monson offers a unique experience for all. In addition to some fantastic beer, they are a goat creamery. Their artisan goat cheese is very popular. The surrounding areas are home to many other small breweries as well, all with very interesting and exciting beer and snacks to enjoy.



HAPPENINGS

AT THE GUILFORD BED & BREAKFAST



HAPPY HOUR

4P – 7P (MON-FRI)

Join us every weekday afternoon from 4 PM to 7 PM for our Happy Hour. Enjoy a variety of wines, beers, spirits, and light bites while relaxing on our screened porch (weather permitting), cozying up in our library by the fire, or enjoying a roaring fire pit (weather permitting). Reservations aren't necessary, but a phone call in advance is appreciated.



BUNCO NIGHT

2ND THURSDAY (5P – 7P)

Join a growing group for a fun-filled evening of BUNCO every second Thursday of the month from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. This action-packed game involves player rotation and mingling, making it an ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Light bites and alcohol will be served throughout the night. Come and experience a night of entertainment and camaraderie!



PISCATAQUIS WRITER'S GROUP

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY (1P – 3P)

Join the Piscataquis Writer's Group on the third Tuesday of every month from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. to share your poetry or prose. Engage in conversations with other published authors and aspiring writers who are eager to share their stories and receive constructive criticism of their works. The group welcomes writers of all levels for a fun afternoon of conversation and learning.



LOCAL EVENTS



PISCATAQUIS RIVER RACE

APRIL 26, 2025

The Kiwanis Club of Dover-Foxcroft will be hosting the 51st Annual Piscataquis River Race on April 26, 2025. Proceeds of the race are used for a wide variety of charities supported by the Kiwanis Club of Dover-Foxcroft. To sign up to race, or to learn more, visit them at www.doverfoxcroftkiwanis.org/fundraiser-piscataquis-river-race.



MOOSEHEAD MARATHON

APRIL 27, 2025

Join us for a race through one of Maine's most picturesque regions—the heart of Greenville, along the stunning shores of Moosehead Lake. Whether you're racing the full marathon or the half, this event will take you on a memorable journey through scenic landscapes and charming local landmarks. Visit www.mooseheadmarathon.com



WHOOPIE PIE FESTIVAL

JUNE 14, 2025

The Maine Whoopie Pie Festival will be held at the Piscataquis Valley Fairgrounds on June 14, 2025 (rain or shine). Join thousands of people sampling hundreds of varieties to whoopie pies at this annual tradition. The festival has fun for the whole family. \$6 entry per person. kids under 12 are free! For more information, visit their website: www.mainewhoopiepiefestival.com



MOOSEHEAD LAKE ARTISANS SHOW

JUNE 21, 2025

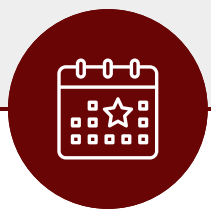
Come out and enjoy original works by local artists and get involved in a number of fun, creative programs from 9A-3P on June 21st. This annual event will be hosted in the beautiful Greenville Junction Depot in Greenville, Maine. For more information or to rent space, visit their website: www.greenvilledepot.org/events/artisans_artshow



MAINE RED HOT DOG FESTIVAL

AUGUST 9, 2025

Dexter, Maine, hosts an annual tradition that's a must-attend for Maine red hot dog enthusiasts. From a 5K run to food, music, and entertainment, this event offers a delightful experience. Join us for crafts, a kids' zone, live music, a magician, and of course, an abundance of W.A. Bean's renowned Red Hot Dogs. This year our festival will include a performance and meet & greet by Maine's own American Idol Season 22 Top 7 finalist **Julia Gagnon**, sponsored by Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union.



LOCAL EVENTS



PISCATAQUIS VALLEY FAIR

AUGUST 21-24, 2025

The 138th Piscataquis Valley Fair will open on August 21st at the Piscataquis Valley Fairgrounds. From animals to tractors, amusement rides and music, this annual event has something for everyone. For more information, visit www.piscataquisvalleyfair.com



INTERNATIONAL SEA PLANE FLY-IN

SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2025

The fly-in attracts thousands of people to Greenville and the Moosehead Lake region every September to enjoy the spectacular aviation event, poke around the unique shops, enjoy the abundant outdoor adventures and celebrate fall in Maine. Come and watch your favorite pilots compete in the contests and enjoy the sights and sounds of the seaplanes! Learn more at www.seaplanefly-in.org

PISCATAQUIS RIVER FESTIVAL

GUILFORD, MAINE
JULY 26, 2025

This family-friendly annual event is a celebration of Guilford, Maine - the Chickadee and Lilac capital of Maine, and everyone who works so hard to make this quiet mill town a special place to call home. This year's event will be bigger and better than ever showing how this town can come together for a weekend of fun, festivities and fireworks.

Activities include a 5K and Kids Fun Run, a parade through historic Guilford, Pie Eating Contests, Beer Garden, Food Trucks, Crafts, Live Music, Games, Fireworks, a Duck Race, Kids Games, Vendors, and so much more. Don't miss out on this huge celebration. Most of the activities will be at the Guilford Athletic Fields.

Come one, come all to celebrate Guilford, to celebrate Maine life, and to celebrate friendships! For more information, schedules, or to get involved, visit:

www.townofguilford.com/piscataquisriverfestival
www.facebook.com/PiscataquisRiverFestival





FROM OUR KITCHEN

It's maple season in Maine, and there's no better time to bake these delectable maple brown sugar cookies. They're soft, chewy, and bursting with flavor. These are the perfect treat for our guests as they unwind and relax in our library. Don't forget to make extra cookies; you won't be able to resist just one of these delightful treats!

MAPLE BROWN SUGAR COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

Cookie Dough

- 2 and 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 Teaspoon salt
- 1/2 Cup unsalted butter
- 1 Cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1/3 Cup pure maple syrup
- 1 Teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Maple Icing

- 2 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/3 Cup pure maple syrup
- 1 Cup sifted confectioners' sugar

Yields about 18 cookies. We typically will double the recipe for 36-40 cookies.



INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- In a bowl, mix together the flour, baking soda, and salt. In another bowl, combine the butter, maple syrup, and eggs.
- Fold the brown sugar into the wet ingredients. Then, add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until just combined. Use an electric mixer to blend all the ingredients together, but avoid overmixing.
- Cover the bowl and refrigerate for one hour. This will help firm up the batter and make the cookies thicker and chewier.
- Remove the chilled dough from the refrigerator and roll it into 1-inch diameter balls. Place the balls 2 inches apart on a non-stick cookie sheet.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes, or until the cookies are slightly browned on the bottom.
- Let the cookies cool for 15 minutes.
- In a bowl, mix together the butter, maple syrup, and confectioners' sugar. You can add more maple syrup, as necessary. You want it thick enough to drizzle over the top of the cookie without coating it.
- Let the cookies sit for another 20 minutes for the icing to harden.



GUILFORD BED & BREAKFAST

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