

HISTORIC TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF RANGELEY LAKES REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE OUTDOOR SPORTING HERITAGE MUSEUM

SPRING 2014

New Exhibit Featuring Rangeley's Trophy Fish to Premiere in 2014

We are very excited to share our plans for a great new exhibit set to open this year, in which your participation is essential. There is probably nothing that says Rangeley as much as its history and tradition of trophy wild brook trout and salmon. Even today there are very few places anywhere where the sportsmen can pursue wild brook trout as large as are found in this region. Have you ever seen a 12 pound brook trout mount?

As a fitting recognition of our unique and valued outdoor history, **a new exhibit will take center stage containing old mounts, drawings, paintings and tracings of some of Rangeley's most**



notable catches from the past. Would you or someone you know be willing to share their great Rangeley trophy fish by including it in the Oquossoc museum exhibit? **Please consider donating or loaning your treasure to help tell the story of our rich heritage.**

We are seeking items dating from

1860 – 1960, and already have several amazing pieces for the exhibit. **Wouldn't you like to be a part of this celebration of Rangeley's amazing sporting history?** To learn more about donating or loaning your special items for this summer's exciting exhibit please contact RLRHS President Don Palmer at: donsteffi@gmail.com

THERE IS MORE... New exhibits on George Shepard Page and Stan Bogdan are scheduled to premiere in 2014. The Page exhibit will draw upon material from his recently donated 400 page scrapbook containing previously unknown details on his contributions to the region. The Bogdan display will include some of Stan's personal items, his diary and the last fly reel he ever made. Plans are in process for more new exhibits and some fun events as well. Stay tuned!

Thank You To All Who Donated in 2013 To Help Expand Our Collection!

A primary source of important historic artifacts is the generosity of our members and friends... Often, family treasures can be important clues to our rich history. Your donations are a way to share them with others now and for generations to come. In 2013 the **RLRHS received some important items including flies tied by Herb Welch, Wendall Folkins, Elizabeth Duley, Percy, Judd Levine**

and House of Tall Tales.

We also acquired a wonderful loon mount, 3 dozen glass photo plates of Rangeley, two limited edition prints featuring *Stan Bogdan*, a Thomas fly rod, numerous flies, and much, much more!

Thank you to all our generous supporters who are willing to share their treasures and Rangeley's rich history.

Artifacts can be donated or loaned to our collection. For more information please contact us at info@rangeleyoutdoormuseum.org

Volunteer and Enrich the Lives of Others and Perhaps Your Own!

Becoming a RLRHS volunteer or a museum docent is a great way to learn more about the history of our region, make friends with some very interesting people and serve your community as well! You'll be helping to educate the public about our rich outdoor sporting heritage and colorful regional history. **We would be pleased to match your skills and interests with the many opportunities to help RLRHS continue to grow!**

Please contact Bill Pierce today at wapierce1@gmail.com or call him at: 207-491-4771 to learn more.

Thank You!



President's Corner

Greetings to the Historical Society family,

Every year seems to have its own special moments and events and 2014 promises to be our most exciting year ever. But first ...looking back on 2013, much has been accomplished on Main Street and at the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum (OSHM) in Oquossoc.

The first meeting of 2013 was our traditional Historical Society Potluck Supper where we renewed friendships and shared how we all "wintered."

We also welcomed our newest member of the Board, Tony MacNaughton and we gave George and Shirley Adams a warm send off as they planned their move to New Hampshire. The Adams have contributed so much to the Rangeley community and will be missed by their many friends. The highlight of the season was the August meeting. A good time was had by all and Bill Wegman shared the background on his world renowned art and talent with an audience of 150 people. During the season, **Main Street offered some new exhibits on the Rangeley family tree, the jail and home life.** We established a display on the Boston Cane, its history and local recipients. Work continues on the project to organize the obituary records (Thanks to Sue and Dave Beisler for their efforts). Our Main Street projects continue to move forward. Great job everyone!

At the **Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum a milestone was passed in July when we welcomed our 10,000th visitor!** To reach this level of attendance in just 3 years far surpasses

even our most optimistic expectations. It sets us on a path for even greater success. Thanks to all the directors, donors, docents and supporters who made this possible.

2013 was a terrific year at OSHM with an art exhibit of over 1,000 bird eye paintings by Father Paul Plante, an art exhibit by John Swan and David Tibbetts, and the exhibit of a new award winning work and a painting demonstration by Ashley Gray. Peter Mehegan, Graydon Hilyard, Aldro French, Julie and Dave Footer also joined us as visiting docents, giving OSHM visitors an opportunity

chael Gramly. He visited the museum to make an enlightening presentation on his findings at the Vail Site. Please visit OSHM to learn more and see artifacts (knives, scrapers, projectile points) from the first visitors to the Rangeley Region 13,000 years ago! Yes, 2013 was an exciting year.

We hope that you like our new newsletter "Historic Times". We feel that it is appropriately titled given our world renowned history, but also because of the moment in "time" we are in right now! We are now entering a very "Historic Time" for RLRHS and OSHM! One that is fraught with opportunity and promise for our efforts, our future, this amazing region and our community! Thank you for being a part of it all.

We cordially invite you to rejoin our membership via our Spring Membership mailing due to arrive in April. We hope that you and your family enjoy our new exhibits as well as our exciting upcoming events and programs for 2014!

We wish to express our appreciation to all of you our valued membership and to all who contributed so much to our success.

Thank you so much!

Don



(Les Hilyard teaching at the fly vise)

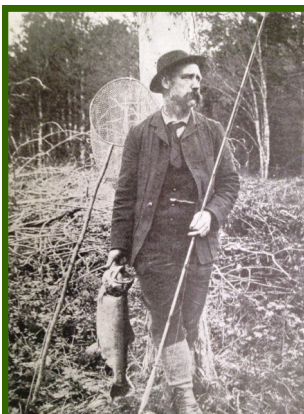
to meet them. We hosted a visit by Carrie Stevens' nephew to see the display of his aunt's flies. We were pleased to have tying demonstrations by well-known fly tiers Harry Cary, Sharon Wright and Les Hilyard.

In conjunction with the new exhibit on famous writer Louise Dickinson Rich, we offered a tour to her former home, Forest Lodge, on the Rapid River. It was a huge success and we plan to do it again this year as well as make visits to other historical locations. More about that to come.

In perhaps one of our most significant professional moves, **we acquired the complete archives on the excavations and work at the Palaeo American site in the Upper Magalloway River Valley,** compiled by archaeologist Dr. Mi-



"At the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum a milestone was passed in July when we welcomed our 10,000th visitor!"





Pierce Named New OSHM Executive Director

As we turn our attention to 2014, it is a great pleasure to make an important announcement as a sign of our growth and commitment to the future.

The Board of Directors of the Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society is pleased to announce that Bill Pierce of New Vineyard has been appointed Executive Director of the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum in Oquossoc. Pierce, who served as Director of Development for the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust from 2008 to 2013, returns to Rangeley after a year in which he worked to establish a program known as Camp Liberty at King and Bartlett providing outdoor experiences to groups of wounded warriors, cancer patients and children. Prior to his time at RLHT Pierce had been employed for 10 years at the Maine Department of Inland

Fisheries and Wildlife, where he was instrumental in initiating many successful marketing and merchandising efforts.

"My family and I are thrilled to be coming back to Rangeley. I look forward to having the opportunity to share Rangeley's rich outdoor sporting history through the programs we'll offer at this beautiful facility," said Pierce.

Bill will work part time until his official start date of May 1st. Welcome back Bill!



"The Franklin County Narrow Gauges - The Next Stop is Rangeley" was recently published by Guy Rioux. This 312 page documentary features the first history of Redington ever published and provides detailed descriptions of the building of the Phillips and Rangeley Railroad as well as the story of the two mills at Redington. This great new book includes several area photographs, 13 previously unpublished maps and information about the people who worked for the railroad. The mills of Redington existed for a very short period of time, from 1890 to 1899 when the main mill was dismantled and relocated to Toothaker Pond in Phillips. The mills were built to saw the timber and the railroad constructed to haul the lumber to markets down country. The railroad was extended to Rangeley in June 1891 to provide passenger and freight service, thus opening Rangeley to tourism and initiating the great hotel building boom (1890's – early 1900's). Rioux has been involved with Maine narrow gauge railroads since 1994. This is his first book. The hard cover edition will be available at the Historical Society Museum on Main St. and at the OSHM. *-GARY PRIEST*

EXHIBIT AT FARMINGTON FAIR

The Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society in collaboration with the Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum and the Wilhelm Reich Museum will operate a week-long exhibit at the Farmington Fair this fall, running from Sunday thru Saturday September 14-20, 2014.

This is a tremendous opportunity for these museums to show the residents of Franklin Country and surrounding counties the artifacts on display at Rangeley's unique museums. Numerous interesting artifacts will be featured on the great hotel era, our Main Street project and several items from the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum. The exhibit will be open from 10 AM to 9 PM each day and staffed with volunteers serving 2-3 hours shifts. We will be looking for volunteers to assist us with this exhibition. If you're available and would like to help, please call Gary Priest at 864-5654

Greetings Everyone,

I celebrate and stand in awe of all you have achieved. Many have contributed so generously and have worked diligently to preserve Rangeley's past and make it relevant to its present and its future: Thank You. I look forward to working with you as we guide this institution to a new level of growth and sustainability. We have an important responsibility, to our children and to those that follow, to make accessible the touchstones of our region's storied heritage: the artifacts, art, narratives, photos, film and archives that reflect the spirit of our rich and varied history. The Historical Society through all its varied programs and efforts continues to recognize that Rangeley is not just a cool "brand" or a lifestyle or a wonderful north woods retreat, *all of which is true*, but also that Rangeley's unique history contributes powerfully to its present and future cultural and economic stability. What was true in the past remains true today: Rangeley is the kind of place that gets inside your heart and makes you daydream about it even when you're miles away. Our region's history is magnificent and compelling, is a major factor in who we are today as a community, and who we'll be tomorrow. As your Executive Director, I look forward to working with you to preserve and share the wonderful histories of both our region and the colorful characters who'll forever inhabit our storied past. I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be part of it all.

All the Best,

Bill

"RANGELEY IS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, TO ALL OF US, A VERY SPECIAL PLACE. ONE IN WHICH SOME OF OUR FONDEST MEMORIES AND MOST ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS HAVE BEEN MADE. IT'S MUCH MORE THAN JUST A PLACE WITH BEAUTIFUL WOODS AND WATERS; IT'S A PLACE WITH A COLORFUL PAST, AND A PROMISING FUTURE. RANGELEY HAS IT'S OWN CULTURE AND SUCH AN AUTHENTIC SOUL"

- BILL PIERCE



**Rangeley Lakes Region
Historical Society
PO Box 521
Rangeley, Me. 04964**

The OSHM Gift shop offers many new and out of print local historical books, sporting glassware, wildlife prints, OSHM clothing, rustic furnishings, a custom line of fly rods, reels, flies, accessories, fly tying material, antique fishing items and authentic Carrie Stevens flies which are duplicates of ones in our collection. This is a chance to own a piece of Rangeley history while helping the Society. We now accept credit cards for your convenience. We are planning to develop an e-store on our newly updated web site so purchases may be made directly throughout the year.
-Stephanie Palmer



**Winter Phone (Until May 9th):
207-491-4771
E-mail: wapierce1@gmail.com**

OSHM *2014 Calendar*

RLRHS BOARD & OFFICERS

President- Don Palmer

V.P.- Gary Priest

Secretary- Ann Ladd

**Squire Rangeley
Historian-** Wil Cushing

Curator
Jeanne Bowditch,

Asst. Curator
Leslie Ferguson-
Packard

Directors
David Beisler
Nini Christensen
Brian Ellis
Ellen Gould
Robin Landis,
Norm LeBlanc,
Stephanie Palmer
Jim Quimby.

**Kevin Sinnett,
Carl Stern**
**Rangeley Lakes Region
Logging Museum**
Liaison- Peggy Yocom

May 9- OSHM opens
Memorial Day Weekend- Special Hours Open -
10Am -4 pm May Fri. 23rd -Mon. 26th
June 7 -Fly tying w/ Sam Kenney
June 11-Graydon Hilyard visiting docent
June 14 -Trophy Trout & Salmon exhibit opens
June TBA- rod building class
June 18- RLRHS Potluck Supper @ Undercroft
June 21- Oquossoc Lupine Show
June 25- Fly tying expert, Les Hilyard
June 28- Stan Bogdan exhibit opens – Legendary
Fly Reel Design/Builder
July Date TBD- Historical Field Trip & Picnic to
Louise Dickinson Rich Home/Rapid River
July 5- Atlantic Salmon fly tying with expert tier
Judd Levine
July 10 -Strawberry Festival – Museum Shop
Specials & some surprises
July TBA - George Shepard Page “Renown 19th
Century Sportsman” exhibit opens
July 16 - RLRHS Annual Meeting @ OSHM
August TBA- Historical Field Trip & Picnic to
Upper Dam
August TBA- Historical Field Trip & Picnic to
Parmacheenee Country
August 2- R. N. Parish exhibit opens
August TBA- Ashley Gray World Champion
Wood Sculptor -Art Demonstration
August12 -RRG&SA Outdoor Sporting Herit-
age Day-Museum Shop Specials

August 13 - Steve Pinkham, Author book signing
@ OSHM followed by presentation of “Old Tales
of the Maine Woods” at Rangeley High School

August 16 - Oquossoc Day - Feature TBA

Aug. 16- Maine Warden Service exhibit opens

Sept 14-20 -Farmington Fair, RLRHS exhibit
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – The first
Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at the Main St
Museum, May – October. All are welcome!

**In addition, fly-casting lessons will be offered
free of charge at OSHM twice per week in June
and September from 8:30-9:30am. Equipment
provided or bring your own. Your instructor will
be OSHM Exec. Dir. ,Bill Pierce.**

For updates as they become available, please
visit our web site
www.rangeleyoutdoormuseum.org

**Get Info and see what is happening
on facebook.
Just login and search :
Rangeley OSHM or Rangeley
Lakes Historical Society**

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sign you up and you can opt out with one easy
“click” whenever you wish. Please Try it. Just 10
issues per year. Send us your email address to:
info@rangeleyoutdoormuseum.org to subscribe
today! *Thank You!***