

The Journey Ahead

The following is a timeframe for some of the Foundation's current plans and activities:

Current Projects (2010):

- Board & Volunteer Development
- Create initial informational brochures
- Create initial website
- Develop a preliminary listing of commercially active sporting camps (open to public)
- Preliminary Coalition and Conservation Partner Outreach meetings

Projects (2010-2011):

- Board & Volunteer Development Continued
- Complete informational brochures
- Complete website
- Develop a comprehensive listing of commercially active sporting camps (open to public) and determine their land ownership status
- Develop a comprehensive listing of non-commercial private sporting camps (not open to public) and determine ownership status
- Perform a Capitol Campaign Feasibility Study
- Develop a preliminary Deer Wintering Area and Special Wildlife Habitat Database

Ongoing Programs & Goals (2010 and on):

- Implement a Coalition and Conservation Partner Outreach program
- Provide limited business and marketing advice to Sporting Camps
- Create and hold an annual conference and educational seminar
- Land Use and Working Waterfront Policy Advocacy
- Implementing capital fundraising campaign including supporting materials
- Conserve sensitive lands around sporting camps
- Prevent closing of existing sporting camps
- Return private camps to public commercial use



Traditional Sporting Camp as shown in this 1906 postcard

“Preserving Maine’s traditional Sporting Camps and the natural resources they rely upon”

A joint conservation effort by the fishing, hunting, environmental, tourism, cultural history, and economic development communities

The Maine Sporting Camp Heritage Foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501c3 public charity organization. Donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

Maine Sporting Camp Heritage Foundation

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Preserving Maine’s Treasured Places, Memorable Experiences, and Authentic Outdoor Heritage

**M a i n e S p o r t i n g C a m p
H e r i t a g e F o u n d a t i o n**

Our Activities

Inventory and Analysis of Maine Sporting Camps

We maintain a database of every commercially active sporting camp, plus those that have already been converted to private, exclusive use. We survey the outstanding wildlife, habitats, eco-systems and scenic values nearby.

Education and Coalition Building Activities

We educate the public about traditional Maine sporting camps and the important role they play in Maine's history, cultural heritage and economic well-being. We stress the importance of conservation efforts to preserve Maine's natural resources and the undeveloped, pristine surroundings that sporting camps rely upon.

Conservation Easements

We build coalitions to acquire conservation easements in order to protect the undeveloped, pristine surroundings that make sporting camps such special places.

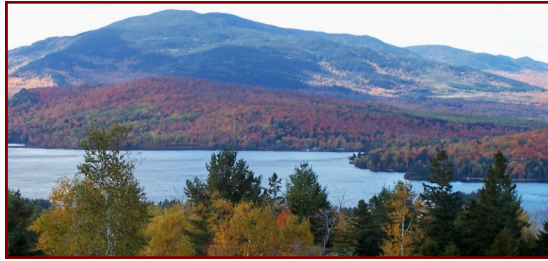
Land Acquisition and Leasing Activities

We offer affordable financing to owners and operators of sporting camps for a limited range of purposes. These include providing capital for upgrading camp facilities in order to make them more suitable for today's visitors, and, in the case of sporting camps located on leased property, assisting in the acquisition of the underlying land in the event the land owner elects to offer the property for sale.

We also directly acquire property in the event it is offered for sale by the landowner, and then lease it to a camp operator with affordable terms when the camp operator would be unable to obtain standard commercial financing for the acquisition.

Assistance to Camp Owners and Operators

We provide business and marketing expertise to sporting camp owners and operators to help them better manage their operations and market their camps in an economic environment where it appears that the interest in traditional sporting camp activities such as fishing and hunting is waning. We work with other organizations, including the Maine Office of Tourism, the U.S. Small Business Administration and Maine Cooperative Extension, to provide meaningful information and technical assistance to camp owners on topics ranging from general business, marketing and advertising, new product and service offerings, and preparing business plans and budgets.



Moosehead Lake, one of Maine's special places

Sporting Camps - Unique Maine Icons

The traditional Maine sporting camp is an integral part of Maine's cultural heritage. For over 150 years, Maine's sporting camps have served the public by offering non-exclusive lodging, meals and recreational access to some of the State's most beautiful and remote natural locations.

Many of these log camps were built by hand and have been in continuous use for over 100 years. In this timeframe, an architectural style has emerged that is unique to Maine, known simply as the "Maine Sporting Camp Style."

In addition to their role in Maine's cultural heritage, Maine sporting camps are also an important part of the State's economy. A significant number are world-renowned destinations for persons seeking recreational opportunities in one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in the lower 48 states. Visitors to these camps help sustain the economies of many small rural communities.

Challenging Future

Maine sporting camps face serious challenges today. Changes in land ownership and management policies, high land valuations and taxes, lack of long term land leases, increased government regulation, lack of affordable capital and encroaching development are threatening the future of Maine's sporting camps.

Most of these properties are on waterfront and typically can be sold at prices that are far higher than could be supported by a commercial sporting camp operation. Many camps have already been purchased by wealthy individuals and families and converted into exclusive-use, private vacation properties.

In 1904 there were at least 300 sporting camps in operation in Maine. By 2007, this number had dwindled to fewer than 40. As more commercial camps are lost, this part of Maine's cultural heritage comes dangerously close to losing its critical mass and disappearing altogether, taking with it the valuable public services sporting camps provide and the vital role they play in Maine's rural economy.

Mission

The Maine Sporting Camp Heritage Foundation was founded to preserve Maine's traditional sporting camps and the natural resources they rely upon.

The Foundation's core mission is to preserve this part of Maine's cultural heritage so that the general public will continue to have access to some of Maine's most remote and beautiful locations, and will be able to enjoy the outdoor experiences that sporting camps offer.

An important outcome of the Foundation's activities is the preservation and strengthening of the local economies in Maine that depend on the continued operation of one or more traditional sporting camps.

The Foundation engages in economic development activity by preventing further economic deterioration and higher unemployment in the rural communities whose economies depend to a large extent on visitors to these traditional Maine sporting camps.



Seaplanes were often necessary to reach remote sporting camps

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