

# FOGGY MOUNTAIN GUIDE SERVICE

EST. 1964



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## Greetings from the Maine Woods!

Thanks to all our hunters for a great 2016 season. Maine's bear population has continued to grow and all signs in the woods indicate that the 2017 season will be just as awesome!

Our 2017 season will see us at our new base camp at Ebeemee Lake. This was a long time Foggy Mountain goal, and puts our Maine Highlands hunters much closer to their hunting stands.

In addition to our already established and productive bait sites, we will open even more land area with new blinds that we have been testing for several years.

Feel free to give me a call – I love hearing from fellow hunters.

– Brandon Bishop



Brandon the Bear Hunter

## Highlights of our 2016 Bear Hunt

Our bear hunting season turned out to be a dandy – both in terms of bear seen and taken.

Unusually dry weather this summer left the bear very hungry as they headed into the fall fattening up season.

During mid-season that hot weather returned to give us a fit for a handful of days. The huge bear we knew were on bait held up in the swamps and bogs until the temperatures dropped a few degrees toward evening. Subsequently, during those days we took some smaller bear.

We love facing mother nature's challenges and were ready to apply our knowledge of black bear biology, many years of hunting them, strategies for selecting bait and stand sites, and of course the famous Foggy Mountain scents and lures.

To the pleasure of many Foggy Mountain hunters, most days they got into plenty of bear and took some real nice monsters too!

## Good Shots, Good Hunters

Good shots, by good hunters, kept the game pole in constant use during our 2016 season. Here is a partial list of those who shot a bear this season:

- Despite the rainy day, Paul Suplinskas of Grant, MI, killed a nice bear on his first bear hunt
- Dave Dillon killed his bear on Tuesday and took it home to Mannington, WV.



Beautiful North Woods Trophy taken by  
Jeff Manus of Alliance, Ohio

- Tate Myers of York, PA, bagged a trophy bear that tipped the scales at just over 350lbs.
- Tim Glasscock of Bellaire, OH harvested his bear with a beautiful shot. Tim also returned to hunt moose and shot a nice trophy bull with a spread of 46 ½ inches.

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- Martin Gibbons Jr, Martin Gibbons Sr and Charlie Franklin arrived together in search of Maine's elusive black ghosts, and each went home to Lusby, MD, with a nice bear
- Lester Rhoden of Lyons, GA, a long time Foggy Mountain bow hunter, made one of his classic bow kills on Monday
- Josh Larson killed a nice bear on Friday and headed home to Seneca Falls, NY.
- John Rose of Savannah, NY, saw a total of 8 bear during his 5 day hunt, but choose to wait for a truly record size.
- Ken Copella took a nice boar back to Clifton Springs, NY.
- Phil Coachman of New Wilmngton, PA, made his long time dream come true by taking a beauty of a bear on Tuesday despite the bad weather
- Otto Reetz of Appleton, WI, had many close encounters throughout the week and finally killed his bear on Friday.
- Foggy Mountain veteran Jeff Anderson of Ann Arbor, MI, made a nice kill and harvested his bear on Monday.
- Jeff Manus took his West Branch bear home to Alliance, OH.



Excellent West Branch Bear taken by Chris Hankins



Busy morning for these Highlands region Bow and Firearm Hunters—  
Lester Rhoden, Tim Glasscock & Martin Gibbons Jr.

- Bob Hughes of Orange, NSW, Australia harvested his first trophy black bear.
- No bear this year for long time hunter Alfred Gardner of Oakton, VA, but he did get many trophy voles and moles. Best of all, his daughter Sarah Gardner bagged her first black bear!
- Chris Hankins of St Louis, MO, harvested a beautiful bear.
- Chuck Darnall of Whitehouse, TX, took a bear having a beautiful white blaze on its chest.
- Richard Carlson of Solomon, KS, harvested his first bear.
- Ron Vernik sealed the deal on Friday and took a nice black beauty home to Bethany, CT.
- Carl Smith of Argos, IN, harvesting his bear on Monday evening.
- Ben Hesse of Darien, CT, harvested a beautiful bear.
- Joe Bowman took his bear home to Hamilton, IN.
- Billy Emerson of Taunton, MA, took his first trophy topping the scales at 500 lbs.

Brandon was so busy skinning bear this season that he couldn't keep up with all his recordkeeping! We apologize to our many guests not mentioned here who also shot and took home a trophy.



"Thanks for a great time. I will never forget all the fantastic things we experienced in such a short time. Getting that bear was icing on the cake."

— Joe Bowman, Indiana

## A Challenge to All Hunters

The photo of Sarah Gardner (next page, bottom) is all about the future of hunting — how dads, you, and I, make sure that we will all be able to hunt for years to come, and that our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy this tremendous sport.

Across the nation, people don't hunt as much anymore. When adults don't hunt, their kids don't hunt. While a drop in license sales doesn't tell the whole story, it does flash a warning.

For every 100 adult hunters today, only 69 youth hunters are coming up to take their place. Once reaching adulthood, it becomes very hard for non-hunters to start hunting despite lots of motivation.

If allowed to continue, economic projections indicate funding for wildlife conservation and research could drop 25 percent by 2025.

So why are active hunters lapsing? Why are new hunters not coming on board? Why are hunter numbers not keeping pace with population growth?

While the future of hunting is dependent on greater land access and increased opportunities for current hunters, recruitment of next-generation of hunters — youths and women — remains the single biggest opportunity.

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## Youngsters are Key

- Current data show only 25 percent of youth from hunting households are active in the sport.
- Nearly 80 percent of adult hunters started hunting as youths.
- Youth restrictions equal less hunting by youths, as well as their parents.

Many hunters, both men and women, long to share the experience with their daughters and sons, but there are 20 states with laws that prohibit youth from hunting with their fathers and mothers.

Age restrictions mean that politicians, not parents, decide when youngsters are ready to join their families on a hunt.

Moreover, youth restrictions may compound participation problems, as parents who can't legally go with their youngsters give up on hunting, too.

## Hunters Hunt with Other Hunters

As hunting partners move away, pass away or become involved with other activities, participation by others in the group declines as well. This also happens when an avid hunter moves to a new area. Hunting activity often does not resume because a hunter loses the former social support system.



Sarah Gardner's First Bear — See page 4

Families and friends play a huge role in whether people hunt. Most hunters stop hunting when their social support systems break down. Research shows that almost all hunters are initiated into hunting before age 20, usually by the father or other father-figure, in a rural environment.

Hunters who are initiated in this way hunt more frequently and are more likely to hunt avidly throughout their lifetime.

Sharing the experience with other family members who hunt, the amount of exposure to hunting and the presence of "the hunting culture" are of utmost importance. Rarely does hunting initiation occur without them.

## Think "Big Game"

In the past, young hunters typically started with small game such as rabbits and squirrels. Today, most sportsmen are big game hunters.

There is no safety reason to exclude young people from the popularity, growth and excitement of big game hunting.

In fact, research shows that the more we restrict youths from hunting big game, the more they don't bother hunting at all!

## Will Women Lead the Way?

But there is very good news — 19% of hunters are now women, up from 10% in 2001. Consider this potential for new hunters — and their children — who will support hunting on future ballot issues!

Nationwide, the number of female hunters has increased by 85 percent from 2001 to 2013, according to a national participation survey.

The State of Indiana reports that the number of hunting licenses sold to women increased by 93 percent from 2006 to 2014, and female youth hunters — those under age 18 — skyrocketed 114 percent from 2006 to 2014. Wow!

Very importantly, among younger women — the "millennials" — there is very little patience with the idea that an activity like hunting is "unfeminine." They thrive on the very idea of a hunting adventure.

A Skidmore College professor said: "It's reasonable to assume that women's growing participation in hunting mirrors our increased participation in the entire array of social and cultural activities that were formerly masculine territory."

That's the "scholarly" answer. The practical reason, of course, is that hunting is fun and deeply rewarding.



Nice Bear taken by Josh Larson of Seneca Falls, NY

## It's up to Us

In Maine, parents may now decide when a child has the maturity and skill with a firearm to go hunting.

Take your kids shooting and hunting. Don't be one of the 75% percent of hunters whose kids don't hunt.

Take a friend, or "the new guy" at work, on a hunt. Help them out. You might find a great new hunting partner, and might even help a non-hunting adult bring their own kids into the sport.

We must remove unnecessary legal barriers to youth hunting and create opportunities for adults to mentor youths and non-hunting adults in hunting.

Removing regulations is an unfamiliar concept to legislators and policymakers, but facts and safety stats support change.

At Foggy Mountain, we have worked for years to protect hunting and to increase opportunities for Junior hunters, women hunters, and expanding the season so students and teachers can hunt before classes start in the fall.

If you love hunting, then we all need to do something.





Alfred Gardner, the "Vole Hunter," and his daughter Sarah's first bear

## Vole Hunting?

Ever wonder about those tiny critters rustling under the leaves while you sit in your stand? We have some answers. Actually, Al Gardner has them.

Some of you may have met Al at the game pole or hanging around camp. He is known to be extremely patient, so you might have heard a bit about his work.

Al is a "mammalogist" with the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. His unit's responsibility is to curate the North American collections of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

We look forward to Alfred's visit each year, and are always amazed at what we can learn about the Maine woods and the secret lives of its wildlife. Al arrived with 150 traps for his 2016 season!

We think you will find Al's story very interesting too, so we asked Al what he's been up to....

### Q: What have you trapped here?

**Al:** At the West Branch, I have caught two species of Voles: the extremely common Meadow Vole and the relatively common Red-backed Vole; plus Deer Mice, White-footed Mice, 2 species of Jumping Mice, 3 species of Shrews,

Eastern Chipmunks, Red Squirrels, and Northern Flying Squirrels.

### Q: Why are you interested in these?

**Al:** There are several reasons. As a "mammalogist" I am interested in the kinds of mammals inhabiting any place that I visit. As the Curator of North American Mammals in the National Museum, our mammal collection (which exceeds 600,000 specimens) contains relatively few specimens from Maine and most of these were collected early in the 20th Century.

My bear-hunting trips have given me the opportunity to increase our collection of small mammals from Maine in the form of freshly prepared specimens along with tissues for use in genetic analysis. All of these specimens are research resources used by the international scientific community.

Another aspect of this work is educational, including the opportunity to show other bear hunters some of the diversity of wildlife in the areas where they hunt.

### Q: How many vole species in Maine?

**Al:** There are 4 species of voles and 2 species of moles in Maine.

### Q: How do you trap them?

**Al:** I use live traps and specialized snap traps, which are about twice the size of the small, commercial mousetrap.

### Q: What do you do with your catch?

**Al:** I skin these mammals, stuff them with cotton (legs and tail supported by wires), and pin them out to dry to make what we call a museum study specimen.

I always save the skull, and sometimes the complete skeleton, for each specimen. I also preserve tissue samples (heart, liver, muscle) for genetic analysis. When time permits, parasites are saved for study by specialists.

The prepared specimens are deposited into the collections of the Division of Mammals in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

"I have been watching your website for 9 or so years and finally booked. The hunt was just as I imagined and then some. Was a true lifetime dream come true."

— Phil Coachman, Pennsylvania

### Q: Do you ever find anything unusual?

**Al:** During this year's trip, I was able to save tapeworms from several shrews, and apparently, these are the first tapeworms to be recorded in shrews from Maine.

### Q: What do voles eat?

**Al:** Voles are primarily vegetarians, eating a variety of grasses, sedges, and the bark and seeds of other plants. They sometimes will damage specimens in traps, so obviously they are not completely vegetarian.

Moles and shrews are primarily insectivorous, although they do consume other invertebrates such as earthworms, snails, and centipedes.

The Short-tailed Shrew, which is common almost everywhere in Maine, has venom in its saliva used to immobilize, but not kill, mice. The Short-tailed Shrew can return later for a fresh meal. I sometimes find shrews and mice in my traps partly eaten by this shrew, destroying their value as specimens.

### Q: What eats voles?

**Al:** Voles, which can occur in high numbers, are a primary food for many carnivores including fox and weasels.

The Star-nosed Mole often forages above ground where they are caught by a number of carnivores, including raptors. Foxes often kill moles and shrews, but will not always eat them.

The most effective natural predators of small mammals are owls. Of course, house cats also kill an amazing number of small mammals, and are especially effective in killing fledgling birds.

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## Brook Trout Bonus

Maine has 97% of all the wild brook trout waters east of the Mississippi.

In September, the larger trout move from lakes into rivers on their annual spawning run. Their spawning colors are beautiful and 18 inch brookies are taken regularly.

Many of Foggy Mountain's West Branch hunters enjoy fantastic wild brook trout fishing each morning right at the lodge or in the many pristine streams nearby. Our guides will direct you to the local hot spots.



## Q: Is your trapping legal?

**Al:** Yes. All of my small mammal collecting is for scientific purposes and conducted under a scientific collecting permit issued by the Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

## More About Al Gardner

Alfred Gardner is a wildlife biologist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center of the US Geological Survey, US Department of the Interior. His unit's responsibility is to curate the North American collections of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles in the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

Al has been a pioneer in the use of chromosomes (DNA) to study mammals, and has published many papers and texts. In doing so, he has discovered and named numerous new species - including the discovery of a mouse-sized Peruvian opossum that has been named after him, the "Monodelphis gardneri."

A fellow scientist, Jim Patton, once said that Al "taught me that nothing was

worth doing, unless you do it to your utmost capabilities." That's a great approach for hunters to follow.

Patton further noted that "anything that Al may have achieved over the past four decades is primarily due to his 'early' life in mammalogy."

Yep, that means running around the woods as a kid – see Lesson #1.

## Lessons Learned

### Lesson #1 – Start'em Early

Getting kids involved in outdoor activities is vital to keeping them involved in a life of hunting. As proof for Lesson #1, Al's early adventures sparked his lifelong love of hunting and sowed the seeds for his later profession in the natural history of mammals.

As a youth, spending time outside chasing critters was Al's first calling, not schooling. He hunted and trapped, selling his first fur as a high school freshman. It is rumored that he also learned to spot game wardens at a distance sufficient to keep from being caught.

### Lesson #2 – Hunting is for Families

Without question hunting with family is a time honored tradition enjoyed by all, as we noted in "A Challenge to All Hunters" (pages 2 & 3). It is also the best way to hand down the hunting traditions from generation to generation.

We at Foggy Mountain tip our hats to hunters like Al and his daughter Sarah, who are lucky enough to share their hunts with family members and close friends.

May you all get that opportunity on one hunt or another, regardless if it is a bear hunt, vole hunt or simply a squirrel hunt behind your house. 🐾

## Private Lodging

**Private & Flexible** – Unlike bear hunts with most outfitters, lodges and sporting camps, Foggy Mountain's bear hunting guests are not doubled up in a bunk house with other guests.

Your party will enjoy the privacy of your own cabin or sleeping room, and the good night's sleep that is important for a good hunt - whether you come alone, with a large group, with your spouse or whole family.



## Wildlife Experts Say "Take More Bear"

Foggy Mountain intentionally under harvests the bear in our hunting areas, and the population has continued to increase.

The State's bear biologists estimate that the areas of Maine where we hunt have population densities well over one bear per square mile.

## Take More Bears

Biologists at Maine's Fish & Wildlife Department continues their request for hunters to kill more bear. The thriving bear population is at a record high and still growing rapidly.

We built a lot of new bait sites this year. They instantly became active and we can't wait to hunt them next fall.

Brandon anticipates that the 2017 and 2018 seasons will produce some outstanding bear. 🐾

"I really had a great time with you guys. The lunch and all that your family put on. All you guys did a great job...I truly hope to get there again."

— Ken Copella, New York



Bob Hughes bagged this Bear for Australia!



## Extend Your Season with a Hound Hunt



Holly Soko's First Bear

## Bear Hunt with Hounds

### 2017 Hound Hunts:

- Season starts September 25th, and ends October 27th;
- Hunts are 5 days, 6 nights lodging;
  - Hunt September 25th (Arrive on the 24th) thru September 29th;
  - or hunt October 2nd (Arrive on the October 1st) thru October 6th;
  - or hunt October 9th (Arrive on the October 8th) thru October 13th;
  - or hunt October 16th (Arrive on the October 15th) thru October 20th;
  - or hunt October 23rd (Arrive on the October 22nd) thru October 27th.

Get back to Foggy Mountain's roots on this exciting hunting adventure. These hunts produce some really great Maine black bear each year. Become one of the hunters who do!

Our hound hunts are a thrilling blend of hound and hunter skills, with exciting non-stop action.

We follow a bear wherever it leads us in the deep woods of Maine. When the chase is on our truck is in high gear. We

"We had a great time. Brandon has a great personality and seems very knowledgeable. My wife and I hope to be back again next year for another try."

— James Miller, Indiana

ride through territory most people would never dream possible.

Our hounds have the experience and heart to get the job done, and done right. These hounds, alongside a truly skilled hounds man, will make for an experience you will never forget.

If you are an adrenalin loving hunter, this is the hunt for you!

We take parties of up to three hunters. Once the bear is treed you get to choose whether or not you want to take the bear. You have five days, so if you choose not to take the bear, then the hunt continues.

Lodging is housekeeping style (each cabin has a full kitchen).

Call us for full details.



"Brandon did an excellent job! He was easy to hunt with and was more than willing to share his knowledge of bear hunting and the area we were hunting. The hospitality and accommodations were fantastic."

— Frank L. FitzSimons, South Carolina

## Questions?

Foggy Mountain hunters always ask lots of questions. Who wouldn't? You put a lot on the line when you book a hunt — your time and money. You deserve to know what to expect, and how to make the most out of your hunt.

Brandon tries to answer many of those questions on the "FAQ" page of Foggy Mountain's website.

We strive to make your hunt a successful one, and to be available when you have questions. While Foggy Mountain's guides are generally in the woods most of the day, and sometimes evenings, Brandon is typically at camp skinning bear and answering questions — unless he's also out tracking.

But the most important questions are the ones you need to ask before you book a hunt.

Our overall goal is to supply you with detailed information so you have no surprises.

## Father & Son Bear Hunts

We are often asked if Foggy Mountain can accommodate a father and son hunt. We sure can, and sure do!

We also frequently have father-daughter, mother-son and even mother-daughter hunting teams.

Junior hunters from age ten to fifteen are welcome. Maine requires they hunt with an adult present. From sixteen on, hunters may hunt alone.

Foggy Mountain can make this family experience a great one for the youngster, and even give Dad a chance to test his hunting skills.

Call us for details on a special plan that Dads really like. After the Junior Hunter kills a bear, we can make it possible for you to hunt bear for the remainder of the week if conditions are right. We even have special pricing arrangements to help you out.

"I was impressed with Brandon. His personality, knowledge and effort that he put into helping us with our bears was much appreciated."

— Charles Chihasz, South Carolina



Paul Suplinskas' Maine Highlands Black Bear





Martin Gibbons took this beauty home to Maryland

## 2017 Bear Hunts

Foggy Mountain's two most popular bear hunting packages are geared to suit everyone's individual needs.

Both hunts are in bear infested regions where we have hunted or performed field research for decades.

Bear hunting success is the same in both areas, but our accommodations are different:

- Lodging for our **Highlands, Katahdin and Moosehead Region** hunts is housekeeping style (each cabin has a full kitchen).
- Lodging for our **West Branch Region** hunts is American Plan (all meals are included).

Both hunts are on private lands with access controlled by gates, as are 95% of our total hunting territories.

## Katahdin-Moosehead Hunts

### 2017 Bear Hunts:

- Hunt August 28th (Arrive on the 27th) thru September 1st;
- or hunt September 4th (Arrive on the 3rd) thru September 8th.

Maine's vast Highland, Katahdin and Moosehead Region lies between our base camp, Mount Katahdin and Moosehead Lake to the north.

You will be hosted at our new base camp at Ebeemee Lake, where you can meet other hunters, share stories, and we even have wireless internet for those who "just can't get away from it all."

We offer excellent housekeeping accommodations in comfortable cottages or camps. We match your lodging to the size of your party and the area you are hunting. We provide bedding and household equipment. You'll have everything you need to prepare your own food inexpensively. There are also several places to eat within easy driving distance.

## West Branch Hunts

### 2017 Bear Hunts:

- Hunt September 11th (Arrive on the 10th) thru September 15th;
- or hunt September 18th (Arrive on the 17th) thru September 22nd.

This hunt is in Maine's famous West Branch Region between Moosehead Lake and the Canadian border.

This bear hunt is tailored the same as our Highlands, Katahdin & Moosehead hunts, except you will stay in the comfort of a fully restored Maine Lumberjack Lodge. The lodge is designated as an official National and Maine Historic Site, and features original turn-of-century architecture and decor.

What's more, you'll enjoy home-cooked, all-you-can-eat, lumberjack-style meals, reputed to be the biggest and the best in Maine. The coffee pot is always on. We even offer wireless internet if you "just can't get away from it all."



Nice Trophy for Dave Dillon of West Virginia

"Thanks again, will never forget this trip...it was awesome!" – Tim Glasscock, Ohio



Tim Glasscock of Bellaire, OH, returned to Maine after his bear hunt to take this nice bull with Brandon

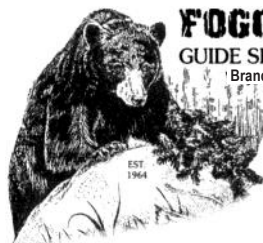
**We are Proud to be a Member of our Industry's Supporting Organizations**







350 pound monster taken by Tate Myers



**FOGGY MOUNTAIN**  
GUIDE SERVICE

Brandon Bishop, Licensed Registered Maine Guide  
139 Charleston Road, Charleston, Maine 04422

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GROUP



## Spring Turkey Hunts

### 2017 Turkey Season:

Hunt May 1st to May 5th, or  
Hunt May 8th to May 12th, or  
Hunt May 15th to May 19th, or  
Hunt May 22nd to May 26th

Maine's turkey population is booming! Wild turkeys were re-introduced over twenty years ago and the population flourished thanks to the excellent habitat provided by Maine's reverting farmsteads.

Foggy Mountain's turkey hunts are in a region full of this prime turkey habitat, where it is common to get the chance to harvest multiple birds.



"I want to thank you and your group. We could not have asked for a better time. Everyone in our group saw bears, and the area to hunt is some of the best I've ever seen."

— Larry Salerno, New York



## Rabbit Hunts

### 2017 Rabbit Season:

One to 5-Day Hunts  
November 1st thru March 31st  
Youth Hunters Half Price

Our action-packed Rabbit (Snowshoe Hare) hunts start at 8 AM when we head to prime rabbit cover and then turn our well-trained beagles loose. We put you in a prime crossing location while the beagles circle the rabbit back toward you.

We enjoy a break from all the action at noon for a tailgate lunch, then head back into the thicket for more afternoon action.

Weapon of choice is a shotgun (410, 20, 12, & 16) so this hunt lets everyone take aim at a rabbit in front of our beagles regardless of age or shooting ability.



## Visit Brandon at a 2017 Sport Show

— GREATER WISCONSIN —  
**OUTDOOR & SPORTSMAN**  
FESTIVAL

August 11-13, 2017  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Stop by the Foggy Mountain booth and have a visit.

## Foggy Mountain Guide Service

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For More Details & Pricing Visit  
[www.FoggyMountain.com](http://www.FoggyMountain.com)



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